

First Published
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THE TIMES
Tomorrow

Man and boy
In the second part of his
Spectrum Profile, Peter
Gillman describes Neil
Kinnock's rise to the top
of the Labour Party



By the right
Roger Scruton on
government and divine
right
No sweat
Fashion Page looks at
sweaters
Nicaragua today
Part two of Alan
Tomlinson's assessment
of Nicaragua: the
precarious economy

TUC calls
for
larger BL

The TUC has recommended
that BL should be made larger
by taking over some of the
operations of other manufac-
turers. It also calls for more
joint ventures with Japanese
companies and controls over
the three other big manufac-
turers in Britain Page 2

'1,000 killed'

An estimated 1,000 people have
been killed on a week of
religious riots involving Muslim
fundamentalists in Yola,
Nigeria, according to a govern-
ment newspaper report Page 6

Legal moves

Pressure groups have called for
a system of examining complaints
against solicitors independent
of the Law Society Page 4

Welsh homage

The regimental goat of the
Royal Welch Fusiliers led 100
Welsh ex-Servicemen in a
parade to the Cenotaph to lay
wreaths of daffodils for St
David's Day Page 3

Lenten fast

Mr John Butcher, Under Sec-
retary of State for Trade and
Industry, has been criticized for
suggesting that clergymen ab-
stain from politics for Lent
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Divers repulsed

The Swedish Navy has con-
firmed that divers attempted to
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Karlshamn naval base but were
forced back after shots were
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Mitterrand visit

President Mitterrand arrives in
London today for talks with
Mrs Thatcher, on which the
EEC's future could depend Page 4

Poison plus

The poison which killed Mr
Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian
broadcaster stabbed with an
umbrella in London six years
ago, could help bone-marrow
transplant patients Page 14

England's task

England face a struggle to avoid
defeat in the first Test against
Pakistan in Karachi. They are
11 runs behind with eight
second innings wickets left Page 19

Champion out

Gaye Brief, the Champion
Hurdler, is injured and misses
the chance to defend his title at
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Du Cann advises
Thatcher to
appoint a deputy

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mounting discontent among
Conservative MPs and some
ministers over Mrs Thatcher's
style of leadership and what
they regard as the Govern-
ment's loss of direction since
the general election victory last
June came to the surface
yesterday.

As an opinion poll showed
the Conservatives trailing the
Labour Party by 3 per cent, Mr
Edward Du Cann gave public
expression to the private dis-
quiet and unease of many of his
colleagues, exacerbated by the
Government's handling of the
GCHQ over its performance
and the appearance of drift.

Mr Du Cann, who as
chairman of the backbench
1922 Committee advises Mrs
Thatcher on the state of opinion
among MPs, said that the Prime
Minister was working too hard
and should appoint a deputy to
take some of the strain.

He advised her to make a
clear statement to the country
and party setting out the
Government's strategy and said
that ministers should take more
account of the views of its
backbenchers. He agreed that
there had been too many
"banana skins".

Mr Du Cann's remarks,
which amounted to a warning
to the Government from the
backbenchers, came as minis-
ters increasingly voice concern,
which has filtered down to the
MPs, about the way key
government decisions are being
taken by Mrs Thatcher and
small groups of ministers
without reference to the full
Cabinet - a practice which they
say has contributed to failures
in the presentation of policies.

One senior minister said
privately last week that Mrs
Thatcher "probably used the
Cabinet less than any prime
minister since the war". Some
MPs are calling for a return to
what they call genuine Cabinet
Government.

The GCHQ union ban was
not considered by the full
Cabinet, and the belief of some
ministers that the Government
may pay a heavy price for its
eventual victory was apparently
confirmed by yesterday's
MORI opinion poll in the
Sunday Times.

It gave Labour its biggest lead
since well before the Falklands
war and showed that 60 per cent
of voters had criticized Mrs
Thatcher's handling of the
GCHQ issue.

Mr Du Cann, in an interview
on the London Weekend Tele-
vision programme *Weekend
World*, spoke of the need for a
new "strategy description".

"We have made some mistakes,
and we have some lessons to
learn", he said.

Backbenchers wanted to be in
a position to advise and guide
ministers but, he added: "We
have reached a period in the
Government's life where minis-
ters tend to pay more attention
to advice from civil servants
perhaps than they do to backbenchers".

The Prime Minister, Mr Du
Cann said, should make a
speech to the country and
Conservative MPs setting out
the strategy, "renewing and
refreshing" the old strategy in a
contemporary setting, and every
minister should do the same
thing for his own department.

"Let us have a clear state-

ment of what the accomplish-
ments are expected to be over
the next four or five years".

Asked whether there was a
case for the Prime Minister to
have a deputy to take some of
the load, he replied: "I would
say unhesitatingly yes".

Friends of the Prime Minister
worried about the great work-
load that she personally
carried, he said. People like him
who wanted to see her as Prime
Minister for many years begged
her to try to do little less work.

"But she is so conscientious.
It is difficult for her to take that
advice", Mr Du Cann said.

Lord Blake, the historian,
said yesterday on BBC radio
that part of the Government's
troubles since the election had
been due to lack of judgment
and some of them might have
come because the Prime Minis-
ter was taking too many
decisions on her own.

"I think the Prime Minister
does not like being opposed",
he said. There were a lot of
things on the political agenda
back in 1979, he said, but since
last June he had had the
impression of a government
which had not been doing much
apart from occasionally slipping
on banana skins.

Mr George Younger, the
Secretary of State for Scotland,
who also appeared on *Weekend
World*, agreed that the Govern-
ment would have to work
harder on improving its com-
munications with backbenchers.

However, on the suggestions
that the Prime Minister might
have a deputy, he said that he
had never seen any sign of her
willing under her workload.

Left angry
over
Benn leak

By Our Political
Reporter

Labour leftwingers were still
seething yesterday over the
leaking of a document drafted
by Mr Tony Benn and the way
it has been presented as
evidence of a fresh challenge by
the Bennite left to the new
party leadership.

Mr Benn, who takes his seat
at Westminster tomorrow after
his victory in the Chesterfield
by-election, wrote the pamphlet
Parliamentary Reform last
summer for discussion by
members of the far left
Campaign Group of MPs who
received it several months ago.

It is under discussion and
has already been amended and
revised. Most of its proposals,
including the removal of royal
prerogatives, abolition of the
Lords, reductions in the powers
of the Prime Minister, and the
removal of American bases in
Britain, have long been associ-
ated with Mr Benn.

But some of Mr Benn's
colleagues saw the timing of the
leaking of the document after his
election victory, as an attempt
to discredit him and sow the
seeds of future conflict.

There was no unanimity
among them, however, on the
identity of the culprit. Suggestions
that the document was
leaked by the Liberals or
another party are not taken
seriously; it is unlikely they
would have missed the oppor-
tunity of using it during the
Chesterfield campaign.

The appearance of the
document may have caused
some embarrassment to Mr
Neil Kinnock but it was
authoritatively denied yester-
day that the party leader had
ordered an investigation into
the source of the leak. Mr
Benn's followers are adamant
that he will do nothing
to jeopardize Mr Kinnock's
strategy.

Leading article, page 13

Gemayel to abandon
treaty with Israel

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Amin Gemayel is
expected to address the Leban-
ese nation on television today
- or at the latest tomorrow -
to announce the effective
abrogation of his country's
unofficial peace treaty with
Israel and a new round of
reconciliation talks with Leb-
anese opposition leaders in
Switzerland.

Mr Elie Salem the Lebanese
Foreign Minister, flew back to
Damascus yesterday, apparently
to arrange for a Syrian-
sponsored ceasefire that would
impose a strict truce on the
Muslim militias as well as on
the Lebanese Army and the
Christian Phalangists fighting
alongside it.

Mr Nabih Berri and Mr
Walid Jumblatt, the Lebanese
Muslim militia leaders, both
said in the Syrian capital
yesterday that they would refuse
any future talks with Mr
Gemayel if he did not announce
the destruction of the treaty
with Israel by six o'clock
tonight, but this was probably a
face-saving device.

The Syrians have told both
Mr Berri and Mr Jumblatt that
the Lebanese President is to
renounce the agreement and the
two men, who were pointedly
kept waiting for two days before
seeing President Assad, signifi-

cantly lowered their own
demands yesterday by suggest-
ing that they would no longer
resign if he abrogated the May
17 accord.

The stage is thus being set for
a resumption of the reconcili-
ation talks, either in Geneva or
Montreux, next weekend
although many things could still
jeopardize the latest initiatives.
In Lebanon, even a minute is a
very long time in politics, and
the ratification of national
reconciliation that has attended
recent calls for a ceasefire along
the Beirut front line has carried
its own message.

Heavy calibre shells fell
across both east and west Beirut
in the early hours of yesterday
morning while fighting along
the line that divides the city
intensified, killing at least four
people and wounding 39 others.

A new sense of nervousness
has been injected into the
growing disquiet in the city by
France's announcement that it
is to withdraw its remaining
1,250 troops from Beirut, all
that is left of the former
multinational force.

M Claude Cheysson, the
French Foreign Minister, flew
to Beirut yesterday to consult
President Gemayel about their
departure. It was "not satisfac-
tory", he said after seeing the
President, that a one-nation
foreign army should be in
Beirut.

The French units here hold-
ing a strategic part of the city's
front line past the old race-
course and the Museum and
both government troops and
Muslim militias would like to
get their hands on it when the
French go. Thus M Cheysson is
trying to make prior arrange-
ments for the handover of the
area to Lebanese authorities.

Jordan poll fever,
Arafat risk,
Smiling Shaikh, page 6



Family duty: Mrs Anna Chernenko, wife of the Soviet leader, casts her vote during the National elections for the Supreme Soviet. (Shaky Chernenko, page 5).

Two MPs
to visit
Argentina

By Colin Hughes

Two British MPs are plan-
ning to visit Argentina in June
for informal talks with minis-
ters and officials in an attempt
to prepare the ground for
agreement over the Falkland
Islands.

Mr Cyril Townsend, Con-
servative MP for Bexleyheath
and Mr George Foulkes,
Labour MP for Carrick, Cum-
nock and Donaghadee, have
recently set up the South
Atlantic Council, comprising a
cross-section of MPs, senior
clergy, businessmen and former
diplomats, who believe there is
wide room for agreement on
issues such as sovereignty over
the islands.

Council members recently
met Lady Young, Minister of



Mr Townsend, left, and
Mr Foulkes.

State at the Foreign Office, to
ensure that they do not
interfere with sensitive talks
through intermediaries between
the Argentine and British
Governments.

Mr Foulkes said yesterday
that members were anxious
about the cost of the "Fortress
Falklands" policy and believed
that an early resumption of
normal relations between the
two nations would be in both
their interests.

Señor Adolfo Gass, head of
the Argentine Senate foreign
affairs committee, with whom
the South Atlantic Council has
been in contact, said yesterday
that he was convinced direct
conversations with Britain
would open by the end of the
year, but emphasized that
sovereignty must be on the
agenda.

"If it is not recognized that
we have rights over the islands,
what are we going to discuss?"
he said, adding that he hoped
to return to the British visit.

Loans crisis, page 15

Left 'ahead' in poll
for TGWU leader

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Left-wingers said last night
that they expected Mr Ron
Todd to win the election for
general secretary of the Trans-
port and General Workers'
Union with a 100,000 majority
over Mr George White, the
candidate of the right.

Nominations closed 10 days
ago and voting starts at the end
of next month. Mr Todd's
supporters claim that an analy-
sis of branches known to be
supporting either of the two
leading candidates shows that
the potential backing for Mr
Todd, the union's national
organizer, is much the greater.

Their claims, which will be
disputed by supporters of Mr
Wright, the Welsh regional
secretary, are based on a study
of the 142 branches so far
known to be backing Mr Todd
and the 153 nominating Mr
Wright. Those are not final
figures.

The left says that Mr Wright's
nominations come from small
branches, while Mr Todd can
rely on support from the bigger
branches. Those nominating Mr
Todd are said to have a
membership of 167,000, while
Mr Wright's larger number of
branches have only 69,000
members.

Union observers believe that
about 200,000 votes will be
enough to win, and doubt that
Mr Todd could have such a big
advantage. Early predictions are
for a close contest.

Mr Todd's supporters say
that those branches known to
support him have a history of
high voting in previous elec-
tions. They include large
branches based on the car
industry in the Midlands and
the North-west.

Mr Todd has the backing of
the powerful regional secretaries
in London and the South east,
Bristol and the South-west,
the North-west, Scotland and
Northern Ireland. Five other
regional secretaries are com-
mitted to Mr Wright and he has
the backing of his own Welsh
region.

The regions where the Todd
campaign is said to be leading
represent about 835,000 of the
1.5m members of Britain's
largest union. But voting is by
secret ballot and members
might not follow the line
adopted by branch leaderships.

There are signs of great
interest among union members
in the election to find a
successor to Mr Moss Evans,
who is retiring. The result
should be known by early July.

Wass backs
fight for
information

By Peter Hennessy

The 1984 Campaign for
Freedom of Information will
announce today the name of its
most important convert - Sir
Douglas Wass, until last Easter
Permanent Secretary to the
Treasury and Joint Head of the
Home Civil Service.

Sir Douglas joins the cam-
paign as an adviser and boosts
it on the eve of the introduction
in the Commons of a Freedom
of Information Bill by Mr
David Steel, the Liberal leader,
under the 10-minute rule. It has
no chance of success but will
test parliamentary opinion.

Sir Douglas's support could
make the lives of colleagues he
left behind in Whitehall, such as
Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary
of the Cabinet, more difficult
when trying to repel pressure for
freedom of information.

Sir Douglas's conversion and
Sir Robert's embarrassment
show the tactical advantage the
campaign gained when its
policy-making council decided
that policy advice given by
officials to ministers should be
exempt from compulsory dis-
closure under a freedom of
information Act.

Serving permanent sec-
retaries will admit privately that
the reasonableness of that
position will make a convincing
defence of the Government's
opposition to greater openness
especially difficult.

Sir Douglas, a popular and
influential figure at Whitehall's
highest levels, has shifted his
personal stance on openness
since delivering the 1983 Reith
lectures, *Government and the
Governed*.

In December he was rec-
ommending the appointment of
an information auditor to
monitor Whitehall promises to
be more open. Now he urges
legislation to compel the release
of more material.

LSO
Music Director: CLAUDIO ABBADO

Something
Different

In recent months, in presenting
cycles of composers' works, we have
concentrated on modern compos-
ers - most recently the unique
international Webern cycle, which
itself followed an extended Tippett-
Berioz Festival in which Sir Michael
Tippett's works were strongly
represented.

In the next two months, the
balance will be redressed with a
Tchaikovsky cycle at the Barbican
and a Beethoven cycle at the Royal
Festival Hall. These series will
reflect more than the
customary attention to the 19th
century's most popular composers.

The Tchaikovsky Cycle, sponsored
by Bush Radio Ltd, includes the
well-loved symphonies 4, 5 and 6. It
also includes his three less
frequently played symphonies as well
as the *Manfred*; his second piano
concerto as well as his first.

Tchaikovsky's popular suites from
Swan Lake and the Nutcracker will
be given while his seldom performed
Motetaria suite will also feature on
one of the programmes.

In short, this series of concerts
provides a stimulating opportunity
of hearing familiar and less well known
works of this unique melodic genius.
Furthermore, this cycle will be
conducted by Yuri Simonov, Chief
Conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre,
Moscow, who made a most exciting
and authoritative debut with the LSO
in 1982. The soloists, all of Russian
origin, include Shura Cherkassky,
Mitsia Maistry and Oscar Stumsky,
described by the late David Oistrakh
as "one of the world's great
violinists" who only recently made
his London recital debut.

Evening performances at 7.45 pm
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Wounds
point to
Iraqis
using gas

By Richard Dowden

Wounded Iranian soldiers
 flown to Stockholm and Vienna
for treatment on Saturday
showed symptoms which offer
further evidence that Iraq is
using chemical weapons in the
Gulf War.

Doctors said the victims had
large burn-like sores and blis-
ters. The possibility that they
were caused by chemical
weapons could not be ruled out.
Assistant Professor Bengt
Koerlief of the Stockholm
Karolinska Hospital Burns Unit
said yesterday that three Ira-
nians he had treated had 70, 50
and 25 per cent burns which
may have been caused by
chemical weapons.

Professor Gerhard Freiling,
head of the Plastic Surgery Unit
in Vienna, said that the 10
soldiers he had seen were
definitely not burnt by heat.
"They have been caused more
by the effects of some sub-
stances of which we have no
knowledge here."

The Iranian news agency said
last Tuesday that Iraqi planes
had dropped bombs on the
Majnoon Island of the southern
front after they were occupied
by Iranian troops, injuring
about 1,000.

Iran claimed that about
1,000 were injured by skin-
burning gas shells fired by Iraqi
artillery on Friday and Satur-
day.

Iraq has denied Tehran's
charges. The first reports of
chemical weapons surfaced in
September, last year. British
doctors visiting Tehran in
November were convinced that
some of the wounds they saw
were caused by chemicals. The
gas - probably Diclorodethyl
Sulphide, a form of mustard gas
has not been used since the
first world war, and doctors are
not familiar with the effects.

Iran has accused Britain of
supplying the weapons, which
are banned by the 1925 Geneva
Protocol. Tehran Radio said on
Saturday: "Britain is trying to
find a way to cover up its
criminal act. It found nothing
better than to give the appear-
ance of sympathizing with the
victims and pretending to be
neutral."

A Foreign Office spokesman
last night denied the allega-
tion. "We have not supplied any
chemical weapons, or equip-
ment to manufacture them to
Iraq." However, last year it was
revealed that a British com-
pany, aided by the Defence
Sales Organisation, had sent
10,000 protection kits against
chemical weapons to Iraq.

MOGADISHU: Eritrean
rebels yesterday said Ethiopia
was issuing home-made gas
masks to protect the Army
against Soviet-supplied nerve
gas for use against the guerrillas
(Reuters reports).

A spokesman for the Eritrean
People's Liberation Front said
Russian ships were bringing a
consignment of nerve gas and
napalm bombs to be used
against the Eritreans.

Abbado
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Our Beethoven series of concerts
can equally claim to be much more
than simply a Beethoven Cycle. Not
only is it the Orchestra's first
complete Beethoven cycle for a
number of years, but it is also the
first time that our Music Director
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Over the series of eight concerts at
the Royal Festival Hall from Tuesday
10 April to Wednesday 2 May, all the
symphonies and all the concertos will
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number of his less well known will be
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Some of the world's most
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concert and from usual agents. The
performances, all starting at 7.30 are
on Tues 10, Sun 22, Tues 12, Sun 15,
Tues 17, Sun 23, Tues 24, Sun 29
April and Wed 2 May. Available space
permits details of the first concert
only, booking for which opens at the
weekend.

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Unions want BL enlarged in proposals to halt motor industry's decline

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Trade union proposals for the British motor industry call for a state-controlled BL to be enlarged by takeovers of some of the operations of the other manufacturers and more joint ventures with Japanese companies.

A TUC study of the industry, which has been prepared for a conference of unions at the end of the month, also recommends government action to control the activities of the other three big manufacturers in Britain, to control foreign imports and to give the economy a general boost to raise demand for cars and commercial vehicles.

Parliament in the union strategy is a larger BL which would be capable of doubling its present output as a means of achieving total car and truck production in Britain of about two million a year. That compares with about 1,300,000 last year.

The Congress House document argues that the Government's plans to privatize Jaguar and Land-Rover and its denial of finance to BL for volume car production to models such as the Metro "indicate its acceptance of BL's slow demise whilst independent smaller producers establish themselves in the specialist markets".

BL would have little hope of dramatically improving its exports markets, so it is argued that a much larger domestic market should be the basis of its growth. The British-produced share of the expanded two million vehicles a year market should be about 70 per cent, compared with last year's share of about 43 per cent.

"To enlarge BL's operations and make its life less precarious,

a plan may have to be implemented for BL to acquire some of the production and dealership facilities currently owned by the foreign-owned multinationals operating in the UK.

"In other words an extension of public ownership may be required and the success of this approach would also rely on an active trade policy encouraging import substitution", the report says.

There should be strong government action to curtail foreign imports and the voluntary agreement struck between British motor manufacturers and their Japanese counterparts should be established on a governmental level. The report also says that if the Nissan plan to build a manufacturing facility in Britain goes ahead, action ought to be taken to produce a compensating reduction in Japanese imports.

In the general move against foreign penetration of the British car market, the TUC says that "the Government should use all powers it has available to pressurize the multinational companies. Among these powers are price and dividend controls, taxation

of repatriated profits, access to the UK markets, government aids and public acquisition".

The TUC, the document says, fully supports the continuation of BL as an independent car manufacturer and puts forward the proposals as a survival programme to allow BL to grow again. The radical shift of policy towards the industry would involve "a change in the ownership structure of the industry and the probable consolidation of existing companies into larger units."

Many of the suggestions made in the document are, the TUC says, short-term measures and the Government ought to undertake a comprehensive assessment of strategies for the industry leading to a detailed policy for its reconstruction. A key element would be reversal of its present policies of "deflation and non-intervention".

Multinational companies should also be expected to reduce their purchasing of foreign-produced components and as a further aid to the components industry British companies should be dissuaded from investing overseas.

	Production (millions)	Exports (000s)	Employment* (000s)	% share won by imports
1973	1,747	605	536	27.4
1975	1,256	532	469	33.2
1977	1,208	523	454	45.4
1979	1,070	393	459	58.3
1981	0,920	305	348	55.7
1983	1,006	237	289	57.1+

* Excludes some component industries, but includes commercial vehicles (Lorain-Hew)
* Includes departments of Trade and Industry, Employment and Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Tory pressure to scrap wage councils

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Pressure is increasing on the Government from a substantial number of its backbenchers to abolish Britain's network of wage councils which set legal minimum rates of pay for almost three million lower paid workers.

Conservative MPs argue that the councils, established by Winston Churchill in 1909, are destroying jobs, particularly for young people, because they are setting rates which employers cannot afford to pay.

Britain is bound by an International Labour Organization convention to keep the councils in being at least until next year but the Government will be entitled in the 12 months after June, 1985, to give notice that it is renouncing the convention. That would be a preliminary step to dismantling the system.

The Government has made no decision yet, but the backbenchers have detected in recent ministerial pronouncements significant signs that it is thinking along those lines.

The wage councils set the pay of employees in shops, catering establishments, laundries, hairdressers, clothing workshops,

and other traditionally low-paid areas.

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Employment, said in a Commons debate on low pay recently that although the councils' creation was wholly laudable, if their operation led to more unemployment and fewer opportunities it would be quite wrong for the Government not to consider carefully the way they worked.

He added, to the obvious satisfaction of some MPs: "We will look with a most searching eye into the operation of wages councils and examine fairly... whether their existence and operation increase unemployment. If that turns out to be true it would be a dereliction of duty were the Government to continue the system merely because we have always had it and merely because Winston Churchill proposed it in 1909."

MPs have pointed out that in 1945, wages council rates for school-leavers were fixed at about 38 per cent of the adult wages set by the same councils. However, today the starting wage for school-leavers in wage council industries is on average 62 per cent of the adult wage.

Inquiry doubt over Trident

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Government will shortly publish its proposals for shore facilities to be built at Faslane in Scotland for the new Trident nuclear missile system which will enter service in the 1990s.

It is planned that the Trident base will be next to the present Polaris base on Loch Long.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, will have to decide whether there should be a public inquiry into the Ministry of Defence plans.

Britain is to build, and bring into service by the mid-1990s, four submarines to carry the Trident missile, which will supersede the present Polaris system.

The new facility at Faslane will be smaller than originally planned, because it has since been decided that the missiles themselves will be serviced by the Americans at King's Bay, Georgia, rather than at Faslane.

That change of plan, it was estimated, would yield a saving of £500m on the Trident project. However, the decline in the exchange rate for sterling against the dollar has been pushing up costs.

Tories still fear Lords revolt on homes Bill

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Conservative whips in the Lords predict that there will be no further defeats for the Government's Housing Bill during this week but they admit that the scale of Tory revolts on the Bill are a worrying foreboding of the difficulties that face the rates Bill later in the spring.

The Housing and Building Control Bill started life last Easter as a small measure for tidying up the right to buy provisions but it has since become a rallying point for a coalition of Tory grandees, bishops and Opposition peers who feel that the Government has failed to protect the interests of charities, the elderly, and the disabled.

Last week Lord Bellwin, Minister for Local Government and Environment spokesman in the Lords, saw several of the Bill's main clauses successfully watered down by an opposition including half a dozen senior Conservatives.

The conduct of the housing Bill through the Lords has raised questions about the huge workload which has fallen to Lord Bellwin, a former Leeds City councillor, in connection with the Government's local authority plans. In discussions with the Prime Minister, Lord Whitelaw of Penrith, Leader in the Lords, is understood to have predicted difficulties with the rate-capping proposals on which the county councils have been lobbying hard among conservative peers.



Back in charge: The former Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath, conducting the London Concert Orchestra on tour at Chichester Festival Theatre, yesterday.

Rebels get Clay Cross advice

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Derek Hatton, the deputy leader of Liverpool council, visited Clay Cross in Derbyshire last December to see if any lessons could be learnt from the councillors who defied the Heath government in 1972.

One of the original Clay Cross rebels, Mr David Nuttall, speaks now of the other Labour council leaders who were "all mouth and little action." Mr Nuttall, aged 47, a miner who is still very active in local Labour politics, says: "They were all in the business of rubber stamping what the Government wanted them to do."

In 1972, the Conservative Government laid down fixed rent increases for council tenants through the Housing Finance Act. After a lengthy and vociferous campaign of resistance, the Clay Cross

Urban District Council with only 11 Labour councillors, stood alone and refused to implement a £1 a week rent rise.

The 11 councillors were made bankrupt and disqualified

from taking council office until 1986.

Mr Nuttall says that the bankruptcy had little effect on him. "I had an old car which they took off me. But then they offered to sell it to the wife. I was the only owner occupier in the group. But it is the wife's house, in her name."

Meanwhile, after extensive and costly court challenges, a new council was elected.

Mr Nuttall was one of the "Second Eleven" in charge of Clay Cross for 29 days before the local government reorganization replaced the urban district council with the new North East Derbyshire District Council.

During those 29 days Mrs Nuttall and her 10 colleagues also refused to implement the rent increases.

Mr Nuttall: Rebel councillor made bankrupt

Sale room

Museums' doubts leave sculpture unsold

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The world's richest museums got cold feet about the terracotta relief of "The Virgin and Child" offered for sale at the work of Donatello by Sotheby's in New York on Friday. Instead of becoming the most expensive sculpture in auction room history, the terracotta was left unsold, bought in at \$1m (£667,000).

Donatello was the greatest Florentine sculptor before Michelangelo, a towering figure of the fifteenth century. While there is no doubt that the relief dates from that period, reflects his style and is a magnificent work of art, there is no documentary proof of his authorship. Moreover, it is extensively restored and it is impossible to tell how much of the original colouring survives under the repaint.

Rich museums such as the Getty and Kimbell, have been telephoning scholars for advice over the past few weeks. Opinions seem to have been conflicting, leaving the museums without the courage to bid.

The relief was first published in the *Burlington Magazine* last year by Sir John Pope-Hennessy, formerly director of both the Victoria & Albert and the

British Museum, and now adviser on European art to the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The Metropolitan did not find the resources to bid beyond \$1m.

Sotheby's said yesterday that they could not understand why the relief had not sold. There was a strong possibility of a private sale.

The three-session auction of European works of art totalled £809,710 and if the relief is left out of account the unsold percentage comes down to 12.

The top price was \$93,500 (estimate \$40,000 to 60,000) or £62,000 for a mid-sixteenth century Flemish "choux-fleur" tapestry. Birds and flowers and putti disport themselves among ornamental cauliflower leaves.

Sotheby's Saturday car sale at Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, secured a total of £110,000 with 30 per cent left unsold.

The top price was £20,900 for a 1935 Lagonda, but the Ulster Folk Museum secured the eccentricity of the auction at £8,250. This was a Maxwell built in Detroit in 1915 and used as an hotel taxi in co Antrim and by the British Army during the First World War. In 1924 it was dismantled and stored in a loft for 50 years.

Employers' inquiry on councillor

By Our Social Policy Correspondent

Time spent by Mr Derek Hatton, Militant-inclined deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, away from his job is being studied by his employer - the Labour-controlled Council Knowledge Council.

Knowledge has asked the district auditor to check that Mr Hatton's time off work is legitimate.

The auditor was not asked to comment on the political activities of Mr Hatton, who is the effective leader of Liverpool's attempt to increase its spending without raising its rates - merely to give comment on how much absence he might have from his job as a senior administrator.

Mr Hatton must complete detailed timesheets, stating his absences from Knowledge, the area covering Huyton and Kirby between Liverpool and St. Helens. Any payments made for his attendance at meetings are deducted from his council salary unless they cover meetings outside his office hours.

Mr Hatton appears to be the victim of stricter rules introduced after the retirement from Knowledge of Mr John Harnill, a teacher, who is now full-time leader.

Forum likely to urge London to consider three Ulster options

By Richard Ford

The final report of the New Ireland Forum is expected to urge the Government to review its Northern Ireland policy and give priority to finding a durable settlement to a problem it describes as "extremely dangerous".

When it is published within the next six weeks, the report will emphasize the urgency and scale of the Northern Ireland problem.

It is likely to list three constitutional options and the principles that would need to be enshrined in any new Ireland.

Extracts from early chapters of the report, published in a Dublin newspaper at the weekend, indicate growing concern among constitutional nationalists at the Northern Ireland crisis.

The draft says: "The immediate outlook is extremely dangerous unless an acceptable political solution is given effect. The long-term damage to society worsens each month but passes without political progress."

It says the fundamental social bonds have been so damaged that the erosion of human values is in danger of becoming irreversible.

The forum is likely to list the three constitutional options of a unitary state, federalism and joint sovereignty but there is still some nervousness over whether all the parties will be able to agree on its conclusions.

Mr Charles Haughey, leader of Fianna Fail, is arguing for a unitary state, believing that anything less would leave Provisional Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, as the only party committed to Britain's withdrawal and a united Ireland.

Mr Haughey is understood to be concerned that he will not be able to persuade some elements within his party to accept anything less than the traditional Fianna Fail demand of a 32-county republic.

Recently he has proclaimed the party's traditional line at

conventions selecting candidates for the European elections and has led many to believe his party will campaign on republican "Brits Out" platform in June.

The forum wishes not to be seen as pushing Mrs Margaret Thatcher into a corner, particularly as many in Dublin know believe that the Prime Minister and senior officials at the Foreign and Cabinet Offices are looking with interest at its discussions.

It is unlikely, therefore, that the forum report will be over-promoted in the United States as it does not wish to be accused of trying to use American opinion to put pressure on Britain.

The Government will offer no concessions on Northern Ireland's constitutional position, but its response to the forum may be to offer some form of Joint Security Commission and an Anglo-Irish parliament tier.

This is unlikely to satisfy the forum's participants, who would regard it as a less than satisfactory response to their almost year-long discussions.

It would leave the Social Democratic and Labour Party increasingly vulnerable in its electoral battle with Provisional Sinn Féin and this vulnerability continues to cause alarm in the Irish Republic.

● An undertaker was killed by a Provisional IRA booby trap bomb intended for security forces exploded as he opened a garage door.

The murder of Mr Herbert Burrows, aged 37, was condemned by Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy. Dr John Armstrong, the Church of Ireland Archbishop called it "a horrible, terrible, senseless mistake".

Mr Burrows, a father of two young children was a partner in a funeral director's business in Armagh city. He was opening the door to clean a limousine for a wedding.

Arts Council divided by a literary argument

By Richard Dowden

The Arts Council literature panel and the literature department's director are involved in a dispute over the way the department spends its money and treats panel suggestions.

Mr Michael Church, literary editor of *The Times Educational Supplement* and a member of the panel for two years, said yesterday that Mr Charles Osborne, departmental director since 1971, has a "pervasively negative influence" and stonewalls the panel's suggestions.

Writing in *The Sunday Times* Mr Church gave a detailed account of the panel's January meeting at which, he says, they were asked to nominate candidates for cuts without being given sufficient background information or allowed to discuss principles.

Criticizing the panel chairman, Margherita Laski, for her conduct of the meeting, Mr Church says "the panel, representing the taxpayer had been prevented from discharging its duty".

In discussing the meeting's content Mr Church admits to breaking the rules of confidentiality and offers his resignation as a panel member.

However, Mr Osborne said that Mr Church's term had expired and was not being renewed, and described his criticisms as subjective and very disingenuous.

He said that Mr Church had been invited to join the panel to help the Arts Council "but it hasn't really turned out that way".

Mr Osborne said he was not able to discuss the subject because he was bound by the rules of confidentiality.

Another member of the panel said that the problem was caused by Mr Osborne's lack of management knowledge and

that "other interests in his life such as writing are paramount".

The job of the director is to get the advice of the panel, formulate into policy and produce a plan for the Arts Council. The second and third of these tasks has not been done.

He said that more than half of the panel of 10 members who are chosen by an Arts Council committee and are not paid, would support Mr Church.

Mr Osborne said he could understand the frustration of panel members if their particular idea had not been taken up.

"But at least 90 per cent of their advice is taken. I would defy any panel member to point to some course of action which the council has wanted to adopt and has been agreed upon and which I have not carried out."

Another panel member, Miss Anne Stevenson, the poet, said that she felt disillusioned and disappointed with their meetings.

"The panel is popping with ideas but they are just squashed for no apparent reason." She said that the literature department lacked money and an enthusiastic director.

The argument comes three weeks before the Arts Council is due to announce the decision of a self-assessment.

The literature department is under threat, as is the panel system. Mr Osborne confirmed yesterday that he had said if the department disappeared the effect on the nation's literary life would be minute.

The author of *Fifty Works of English Literature We Could Do Without*, Mr Osborne has been criticized for failing to spend all his budget and for supporting audiences rather than individual writers.

Crackdown on meaningless disclaimers

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Notices in shops and elsewhere which say "we accept no responsibility" are being removed after a year of campaigning by Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

One organization which has come into line is Lions of Longleat in Wiltshire. The safari park has removed notices which read: "Lions of Longleat accepts no responsibility for damage to persons or property by the animals."

A year ago Sir Gordon traced a number of examples of attempts to disclaim responsibility for negligence, even though the Unfair Contract Terms Act had made such disclaimers null and void five years earlier. Home improvement contractors and car hire companies were found to be the most frequent offenders.

Now 80 per cent of individual cases pursued have promised to alter terms and conditions. Several trade associations have also undertaken to encourage their members to comply with the law.

Country sports magazine gets new editor

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Derek Bingham said yesterday that he was to leave *The Field*, the country sports magazine, after almost seven years as editor. Mr Simon McQuorodale, a former assistant editor of *The Spectator*, will succeed him in May.

The retirement of Mr Alexander Chancellor with Mr Charles Moore as editor of *The Spectator* was announced last month. Both are long-established weekly magazines with similar circulations in the region of 20,000. *The Spectator* is owned by Mr Algy Clark and *The Field* by Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*.

Mr Bingham, aged 41, declined the new post of managing editor of *The Field* on Friday. He would not comment yesterday about his departure.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$25, Belgium 80, Canada \$25, Denmark 80, France 80, Germany 80, Greece 80, Hong Kong \$25, India 80, Ireland 80, Italy 80, Japan 80, Korea 80, Luxembourg 80, Malaysia 80, Mexico 80, New Zealand 80, Norway 80, Pakistan 80, Portugal 80, Singapore 80, South Africa 80, Sweden 80, Switzerland 80, Taiwan 80, Thailand 80, USA \$25, Venezuela 80.

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Medieval abbey to be excavated

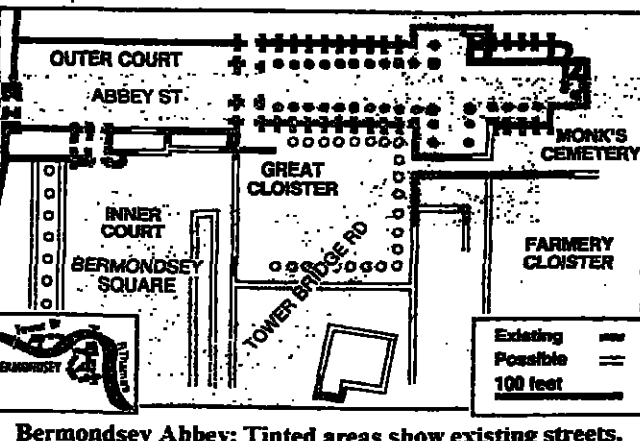
By Patricia Clough

Long-buried secrets of one of London's greatest medieval abbeys are expected to come to light soon by a busy crossroads in Southwark.

A £50,000 grant from the Greater London Council has opened the way for excavations on the site of Bermondsey Abbey, once an immensely wealthy and important monastic centre whose remains now lie forgotten beneath concrete and bricks half a mile south of Tower Bridge.

Built about 20 years after the Norman invasion by Cluniac monks, a strict branch of the Benedictine Order, the abbey became a popular pilgrimage place and was often visited by kings, for whom it built royal lodgings.

If had rich benefactors, acquired vast estates and owned what was believed to be a piece of the True Cross, for which Henry II built a chapel. Henry II held a Parliament there and in 1250 a great assembly of Crusaders met there.



Bermondsey Abbey: Tinted areas show existing streets.

When the Dissolution came in 1537, the abbot surrendered the abbey to the Crown and four years later it was sold to a Sir Thomas Pope, who is believed to have pulled it down and used much of the materials to build himself a Tudor mansion.

No one knows what the abbey looked like. No plans or drawings survive and even its layout is partly a matter for conjecture. A road, suitably named Abbey Street, runs right through what is assumed to have been the nave. Another, Tower Bridge Road, was laid across its transepts. Much of the rest is covered by buildings.

Southwark Council has pulled down four aging blocks of council flats and archaeologists from the Museum of London have six months to excavate the south-eastern section of the abbey precincts before new housing is put up.

Miss Laura Schaub and Mr Mike Hammonson, two archaeologists from the museum's Greater London department, hope to find remains of the chapter house, the south transept, the cloister, the monks' dormitory and the refectory.

They are also hoping some time later to be able to excavate part of the south-western area.

هكذا من الأصل

Many teachers welcome Joseph's criticism of school peace studies

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The pronouncement by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, that peace studies should not be taught as a separate subject in schools has met with a favourable reaction from all sections of the teaching force.

Even Teachers for Peace a group which supports the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said that it agreed with much of what Sir Keith said about the importance of not indoctrinating children and leaving them to think for themselves.

Mrs Hilary Lipkin, coordinator of Teachers for Peace said: "I have always felt it was a good idea to teach peace studies as and when issues cropped up in ordinary lessons. But I also think separate peace studies are valuable."

While arguing that there was no need to make special space for studies labelled "peace" Sir Keith said that when the subject did arise it was essential that teachers dealt with it in a proper professional way.

Sir Keith addressing the National Council for Women at the weekend, said: "There will be occasions - in history, in religious studies, in physics, in English, for example - when questions of the morality of

war, the conditions which lie behind war and other aspects of international affairs will crop up."

"As pupils mature they ought to be encouraged to apply their reasoning powers to these and other important issues of the day. These might include topics such as closed societies and open societies, such as one-sided or two-sided disarmament. The approach in the classroom should be rational and not emotional."

Expanding on his theme, Sir Keith said that if a teacher was asked by the pupils for his or her view he should declare where he stands but explain at the same time that others, particularly the pupils' parents and other teachers, may disagree.

He accused local education authorities, some of which have issued guidance to schools on the issue, of attempts at indoctrination. "In the course of preparing such guidance, opinions are expressed and propagated by councillors and others which do great educational harm."

"Such attempts are an insult to the teaching profession and a disservice to the cause of education in an open society. I deplore, for example, attempts

to exploit the emotive connotations of the word 'peace' so as to beg serious and difficult questions."

"I deplore attempts to preach one-sided disarmament to primary pupils ('babes against the bomb') under the guise of teaching them, as they must be taught, to be kind and considerate to others."

There was criticism of Sir Keith's invitation to parents to appeal to him if they had a complaint about a teacher's treatment of the issue of war or peace.

Mr David Williams, honorary secretary of the Secondary Heads Association and head of Devises Comprehensive School in Wiltshire, said he disliked the implication that that was the only issue on which parents might complain about bias.

In general peace studies were handled in the way advocated by Sir Keith, he added, and the guidance produced by local authorities "fell over backwards" to prevent indoctrination.

Tomorrow the National Union of Teachers, the largest teachers' union with 250,000 members, is producing a document which calls for a professional and unbiased approach to peace studies.

Training could 'save 2,000 lives a year'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Ambulance crews could save between 2,000 and 3,000 more patients a year if their training was improved, a government advisory committee has concluded after a study commissioned by the Department of Health from York University.

The lives would be saved by training crews in three techniques - intubation, in which plastic tubes keep air channels free in unconscious patients; infusion, in which drips replace lost blood and other fluids; and cardiac defibrillation, the use of electric shocks to restore normal heartbeat after heart attacks.

The Standing Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee has calculated that to train 3,000 ambulance crew - about a third of the total who do emergency duties - could cost about £10m over 15 years. That amounts to 0.3 per cent of the operating costs of the 45 ambulance services.

The confidential report says that if that was done, an emergency ambulance staffed permanently by trained personnel might save an extra four or five lives a year after heart attacks, road crashes and other accidents. Across the country that would mean between 2,000 and 3,000 lives a year.

The calculations follow the university's unpublished study of the costs and results of such

extra training in the United States and in six areas in Britain - Bristol, Brighton, Oxford, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and London - where some staff have been trained in some or all of the techniques.

Capital costs are small. A defibrillator cost about £3,000, intubation and infusion requires little or no capital, and the main cost would be extra training.

The report's conclusions are known to the ambulance workers' union which want the training introduced.

They have included it in this year's pay claims, arguing that it should be introduced together with a salaried pay structure, and giving employers the flexibility in using manpower needed to release crews for the training.

More than 50 per cent of ambulancemen's earnings now comes from shift, overtime and weekend working, which would make the release of crews for training prohibitively expensive, the unions argue.

A detailed syllabus for the training has been produced by the National Staff Committee for Ambulance Staff, but ministers and the employers have yet to approve the scheme.

The York study argues that the training would also bring spin-offs

Authorities challenge NHS plan

Eighteen of the 192 district health authorities are refusing to comply with all or part of the Government's circular ordering them to invite private tenders for National Health Service domestic, catering and laundry services, according to a survey by the National Union of Public Employees (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Ten have either voted not to comply or not to produce a timetable for inviting tenders, something health authorities were meant to have done by the end of last week.

A further eight have voted to include a fair wages clause in any contracts.

Ministers issued guidance last November prohibiting health authorities from laying down conditions about pay when seeking contracts.

According to the survey, authorities refusing to comply or draw up a timetable for tenders are South Cumbria, Central Nottinghamshire, Sheffield, Brent, Haringey, Islington, Epsom, North Staffordshire, West Lancashire and Rife. Those who have voted to include a fair wages clause in contracts are North Derbyshire, Sheffield, Brent, Central Birmingham, Kidderminster, South Birmingham, South Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Blackburn and Lancaster.

Dispatch riders 'cause chaos'

By Paul Chudecki

Inexperienced, uninsured motor cycle dispatch riders are causing thousands of accidents, according to a British Safety Council report.

The report says that 15,000 dispatch riders operate in London, and most are aged between 17 and 22. A large proportion have not passed the motor cycle test.

The general standard of driving is said to be low. But the problem also exists in Birmingham, Manchester, Aberdeen, and Glasgow, where courier services have mushroomed since the telegram ended.

Because the couriers, including a growing number of women, are paid by the mile they are under pressure to go as fast as possible to fit more jobs

into the day. Some riders can earn more than £300 a week.

Mr James Tye, the council's director general, says that many companies employing messengers have no restrictions on riders, or ensure that they are properly insured.

Referring to what he described as "the menace of these geared up guerrillas", Mr Tye said: "Many of these operators do not even check that the motor cyclists on their books have got a driving licence or insurance cover."

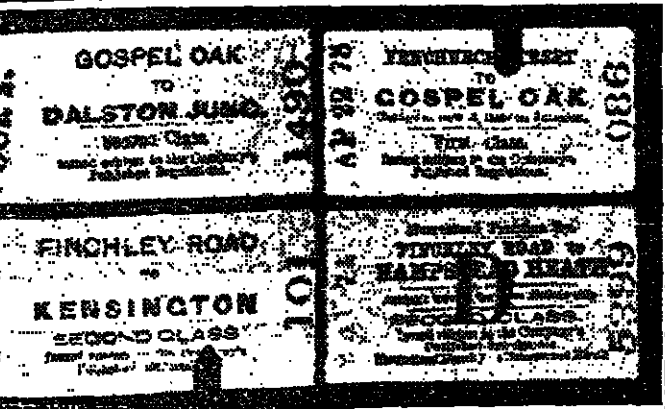
"The majority of insurance companies deliberately exclude dispatch riders from the terms of their general policies because they are involved in so many accidents. Comprehensive cover for a 18 or 19-year-old in

London can cost more than £1,000 a year for a large motor cycle."

The Accident Research Unit in Birmingham suggests that motor cyclists are 22 times more likely to be killed in an accident than any other road user and the average dispatch rider is off work through injury for between four and six weeks a year.

Mr Tye said: "These cowboys are bringing chaos to the roads, and causing thousands of accidents."

The council's report calls for legislation stipulating that no rider should be employed without a full driving licence, that riders should be adequately insured, preferably with comprehensive cover.



Examples of the vanishing ticket

Steam-age rail tickets yield to computers

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A £20m contract to be signed by British Rail today will sound the death knell of the familiar cardboard railway ticket invented by a Carlisle station-master in 1836.

The contract, with Thorn EMIL, is for 2,000 electronic machines which will produce a thinner but larger ticket, roughly the size of a credit card.

The computerized machines will enable British Rail to see exactly what it is selling each day. That will lead to a simpler national fares structure and more local special offers, depending on the market.

The new tickets, which will be calculated and printed on

the spot from next year, will also mean job losses, not least at the LMS printing works in Crewe where the cardboard tickets are produced.

Thomas Edmondson, who joined the old Newcastle and Carlisle Railway as a clerk in late 1820, when tickets were written by hand, became a wealthy man through his simple system of pre-printed tickets.

He retired when his system caught on and earned about £2,000 a year in the 1850s.

The Edmondson ticket, which will be phased out by 1987, allowed for a wide range of variations within the same format.

Synthesizer will enable girl to speak

From a Correspondent Birmingham

A girl aged 15 who has never spoken will soon start "talking" through a hand-held synthesizer, claimed as a world "first" for British technology.

Tracey Bates, of Great Barr, Birmingham, had a cerebral virus when she was eight months old which destroyed the speech centres in her brain and prevented her from speaking. She will make the machine speak by pressing buttons.

The voice that will come from the synthesizer is that of a girl slightly older than Tracey and a pupil at a school in the Black Country. The girl is to remain anonymous. She is now helping engineers and therapists to "code" a vocabulary pattern of 330 words, phrases and names.

A communication aids centre at West Bromwich is supervising the advanced technology needed.

Dr Clive Phursfield, the senior bioengineer at the centre, said yesterday: "A girl of Tracey's age is in her formative years, but without a voice that is very difficult. We decided to help her by developing a voice for her with a local accent. I believe this is the first time this has been attempted and we are having to build the machine virtually from scratch."

Billy the goat leads Welsh to Cenotaph

By Alan Hamilton

Billy the regimental goat, freshly bathed, horns sandpapered, and with Angora hair teased to a sheen, led 100 Welsh ex-Servicemen in parade to the Cenotaph in Whitehall yesterday to lay wreaths of golden daffodils for St David's Day.

Billy is a direct descendant of a pair of Angoras given by the Shah of Persia to Queen Victoria, and was promoted from the ranks of the Queen's herd at Whipsnade Zoo to his ceremonial post with the Royal Welch Fusiliers at Westminster, Wiltshire, from where he journeyed at dawn in his own private trailer.

The veterans, in the uniforms of bowler and furred

umbrella, marched as they do each year on the Sunday nearest the feast day of the patron saint, to remember the fallen of the infantry regiments of Wales. Yesterday's turnout was high, for they had secured the rare services of the band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, together with the regiment's pioneers bearing polished axes and pickaxes.

But old soldiers are fading away. Yesterday's sole representative from the First World War was Mr William Tacker, who as demobbed from the regiment in 1919 and joined *The Times* to help to launch the publication with which a large part of the globe still follows other people's wars, *The Times Atlas of the World*.

The veterans, in the uniforms of bowler and furred



On parade: Billy being led by Goat Major, Lance Corporal Kenneth Barrow yesterday (Photographs: Brian Harris).

Hunt mole to protest about 'fox in sack'

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Michael Huskisson, the hunt "mole", is to make a complaint to the Masters of Foxhounds' Association about an incident which he claims to have seen last year, in which a fox was allegedly dug from its earth, placed in a sack and then released in front of the Dulverton West foxhounds in Somerset.

Opponents of hunting have tried for years to discredit hunting by proving that foxes are not simply hunted where they are found, but are sometimes caught and then released in front of hounds. Mr Huskisson claimed last year to have photographs of the alleged Dulverton West incident.

The photographs, which have been shown to *The Times*, have been dismissed as inconclusive by the association. Mr Huskisson's activities in seeking evidence of hunt cruelty while posing as a keen hunt supporter under an assumed name were disclosed by *The Times* last year.

The League Against Cruel Sports said yesterday that Mr Huskisson had been taking moving film of the Dulverton West incident at the same time as he was photographing it with a still camera.

Mr Richard Course, executive director of the league, said: "We are prepared to substantiate our allegations with further evidence, photographic and other." He said that a bag had been used to hold a fox captive and that fox hairs had been found in it later.

Mr Huskisson's detailed account of the alleged incident is summarized on the front page of the latest edition of the league's newspaper, *Cruel Sports*.

"I shall make a formal written complaint", Mr Huskisson said. "I shall expect them to have an investigation to confirm the facts and then sling out the people concerned."

Police investigate 'prison beatings'

Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that detectives are investigating allegations that prisoners have been ill-treated by officers in a segregation wing at Wandsworth prison, London (Stewart Trender writes).

The police inquiry, which started last week, is reported to

involve complaints by five prisoners that they were beaten over a period of some weeks last January. Officers are alleged to have punched and kicked prisoners.

The allegations follow an incident on January at the end of a protest over what was

alleged to be a new harsh regime in the prison. One prisoner is appearing before a board of prison visitors tomorrow charged with assaulting two officers.

Yesterday the Home Office said the disciplinary hearing would go ahead despite the police investigation.

Three lost

Three men died at the weekend after sailing in a lobster boat from Scrabster, near Thurso.

They were Mr James MacKay, aged 45, and Mr Robert MacKenzie, aged 36, both of Scrabster, and Mr Anthony Swanson, of Reay.



"We're putting his name down for First Class and American Airlines First Class."

The far-sighted Fortescue-Smythes may have heard that American Airlines First Class and Business Class across the Atlantic is rather popular these days.

It could be that the British rather like our International Flagship Service non-stop to Dallas.

It's true that unlike other airlines, our cabin staff are trained to the exacting standards of a well-known luxury hotel group.

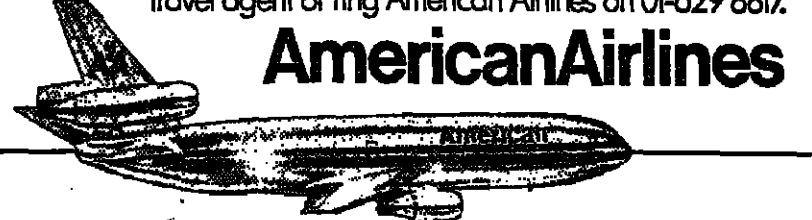
And unlike other airlines, we understand that the businessman likes to keep up-to-date.

So we provide an in-flight update of investment news by a leading financial analyst. And a news magazine prepared by CBS. On video, of course.

All of this may not be surprising when you realise that unlike other airlines, we flew the competition, noted their good points and only then created a service that bettered them.

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For seat availability and any other information, contact your travel agent or ring American Airlines on 01-629 8817.



Self-policing professions: 1 Law Society is pressed for independent complaints investigation

Should professional bodies judge complaints against members? PETER EVANS, Home Affairs Correspondent, reports in the first of a three-part series, on calls for independent investigations.

Moves to reform the Law Society's Complaints procedures coincide with growing pressure for a more independent system. They follow an internal report describing as disgraceful the way the society dealt with a solicitor, Mr. Glynne Davies, who overcharged a client, Mr. Leslie Parsons, a South Wales businessman, by £131,000.

The Legal Action Group says that the society's role as "a protective trade association" for solicitors conflicts with examining allegations against them.

It quotes the royal commission of Legal Services as finding "evidence of a genuine feeling of unease about the Law Society's handling of complaints, a feeling that 'lawyers look after their own'."

The National Consumer Council's proposals to provide "an objective system of investigation into alleged lapses on the part of solicitors" are being discussed with the society.

The Council recommends that the Society sets up and funds a solicitors complaints bureau with Society nominees in a minority. The bureau would receive complaints of professional misconduct, negligence, and bad work, conciliating where possible.

Where a complaint was justified, the bureau would be able to order:

● Reference of allegations of professional misconduct to the society for action.

- A solicitor to do further work for the complainant at a prescribed fee or pay for another solicitor to do the work.
- Compensation to be paid.
- Fees to be reduced or repaid.

The bureau would be able to issue a written reprimand and recommend that a claim be pursued in the courts where the potential liabilities went beyond its scope.

The society's leaflet on complaints says it cannot "take proceedings on your behalf against your solicitor for his negligence or lack of care when doing your work". Nor can it order a solicitor to pay compensation.

Before the latest report it said it wanted wide new statutory powers.

The society wants to be able to order a solicitor to rectify at his own expense mistakes made

in the conduct of a client's case. Powers are being sought to order a solicitor to repay the costs.

The society says that its powers and those of the independent disciplinary tribunal are with two exceptions not compensatory.

One exception is in a case of proven dishonesty resulting in money missing, when the society can make a payment from a compensation fund to which all solicitors contribute, or it can certify that a solicitor should pay interest on a client's money he is holding.

The power being sought is not designed for negligent solicitors and the client has a claim pursued through the courts. There are panels of solicitors to which the society can refer a complainant who it feels needs some help. The initial interview is free.

The society also wants to be able to impose immediate conditions on a practising certificate and not await the annual renewal.

If a solicitor breaks the rules on professional behaviour the society can investigate and take action. That can include restricting or refusing a practising certificate; issuing a reprimand; or inspecting accounts.

Where appropriate, a solicitor in private practice can be instructed to make a formal application against the solicitor before the disciplinary tribunal, consisting of solicitors and lay members appointed by the Master of the Rolls. The tribunal may reprimand, levy a fine (which goes to the Treasury), suspend or strike off.

Tomorrow: The medical profession

Mr Leslie Parsons: Overcharged by £131,000.

Where a complaint was justified, the bureau would be able to order:

● Reference of allegations of professional misconduct to the society for action.

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Winter crop boom may bring new protests

By John Young
Agricultural Correspondent

A remarkable increase in the acreage of winter crops, shown in the latest survey by the Ministry of Agriculture, seems certain to fuel controversy over the imbalance between the live stock farming, and to renew misgivings about the cost of disposing of grain surpluses.

Wheat sown before December 1 is 18 per cent up on 1982-83. The area of oilseed rape has increased by 17 per cent and barley by 12 per cent.

Although some of the increase can be explained by the growing preference among farmers for autumn sowing, it provides and early intimation of another record harvest and the attendant problems that will ensue.

Stocks of unsold wheat from last season were estimated to be more than 3,000,000 tonnes at the end of December, and barley 2,200,000 tonnes. Although the market has improved slightly in the past two months, it does not reflect the optimistic predictions in the middle of last year.

The Home Grown Cereals Authority said that last year's dry autumn had provided ideal planting conditions, enabling almost all the winter crop to be sown before the December 1 census date. But the overall acreage of cereal plantings would still substantially exceed those of previous years.

Most of the winter wheat consists of hardy, high yielding feed varieties, for which the market is sluggish, as opposed to the milling wheat which farmers are being urged to grow. About three quarters of this year's winter crop will be feed wheat.

Land threat fears

A Bill to entrench public rights of access to Dartmoor, and to prevent overgrazing by commoners, is in danger of losing the support of Devon County Council, according to the Ramblers' Association.

The reason, it says, is opposition by the County Landowners' Association, which is demanding individual access agreements with each of the 55 landowners on the moor.

The county council and the national park authority are to meet members of the Conservative backbench environment committee on Thursday to discuss the future of the Bill, which is the first attempt to give statutory rights to walkers and riders in a national park. It is expected to be given its second reading later this month.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England believes green field sites are still under threat from development, despite rewritten government circulars on the Green Belt and land for housing (Christopher Warman writes).

Its warning comes after, an interview with Mr Tom Baron, chairman of Christian Salvoson (Properties).

In the council's magazine, *Countryside Campaigner*, he says structure plans allow for between 10,000 and 12,000 acres a year to be released.

Letters, page 13

The new face of Nicaragua



Freedom vow: Sandinista slogans on a poster erected during anniversary celebrations of the revolution.

Sandinista flags fly over ruins

In the first of two articles on Nicaragua, Alan Tomlinson in Managua looks at how the Sandinista Government operates at the political grass roots.

The centre of Managua is an eloquent ruin. The skeletons of its shattered buildings speak of the Somoza regime's failure to rebuild after the earthquake of 1972 and the inability of the Sandinista National Liberation Front to reconstruct the capital since the revolution of 1979.

Beyond the ruins, inhabited by families eking out a miserable existence, sprawl sumptuous suburbs seemingly untouched by these catastrophes, dominated by the hill of Tiscapa, once the dictator's fortress, now bearing in tall white letters the initials of the new order, the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front).

The Sandinista front is everywhere. Red and black flags carrying the party motto - "a free country or death" - fly over working class barrios and smart suburbs alike. Portraits of fallen Sandinista heroes adorn public buildings. The uniformed *compas*, or comrades, of the Sandinista People's Army, the Sandinista People's Militia and the Sandinista police are as numerous on the streets as civilians.

And in every neighbourhood block of flats there are the Sandinista defence committees, the CDs - which double as



Nicaragua ports mined, rebels say

Managua (AP) - The Minister of Interior, Señor Tomas Borge, has given warnings that rebels acting on the orders of the United States will step up violence against "economic targets" during the coming week.

The violence would include the explosion of mines supplied by the US that rebels claim they have placed in the ports of Corinto and El Bluff, he added.

Corinto is an important fuel-unloading facility on the Pacific coast about 90 miles north-west of Managua.

Señor Borge said that imperialist forces had ordered their mercenaries to begin next week a new criminal, terrorist escalation against economic targets. He was speaking during celebrations for the return on Saturday of the remains of Colonel José Santos Lopez, a leftist hero who fought in Nicaragua during the 1920s. Santos Lopez died in exile in Cuba in 1965.

The leftists came to power in a 1979 revolution

state watchdog and grassroots party machine - characterized by Señor Tomas Borge, the Interior Minister as "the eyes of the revolution".

All this sounds as though a dictatorship of the right has been replaced by the totalitarianism of the left. But this image of 1984 Nicaragua is belied in the cheerful smiles of the *compas*, who appear genuinely to believe that what is being built here amid the ruins is a new model for Central American society.

There is freedom to do business on the competitive market, though with profit margins fixed by the state many businessmen claim their role has been reduced to that of administrators. There is freedom to belong to any political party, though not yet to campaign for power.

The opposition press can publish its opinions as long as it does not abuse the revolution and refrains from extolling the virtues of the past.

Censorship, which has brought much criticism of the FSLN from abroad, is largely aimed at references to the security situation and food shortages. But the editor of the opposition daily, *La Prensa*, Señor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, says that it frequently goes far beyond these parameters.

There is generally freedom of movement, except in some parts of the Atlantic coast, where the Indian way of life has been more susceptible than elsewhere to the armed counter-revolution.

In the capital, electoral reform is laying the foundations of democratic elections in November. The small opposition parties, which have perhaps made a historical mistake in seeking support abroad rather than within the country, argue that the elections will not be fair.

Salvador fails to woo foreign press with kid gloves and smiling colonels

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The Salvador Army has been trying, with little success, to woo the foreign press recently. Its aim is to persuade journalists to report its version of the facts of the four-year civil war here and not that of the daily rebel radio broadcasts.

Relations between Army and press reached a low in mid-January when about 20 journalists set out to investigate Army claims that troops had killed 107 guerrillas in battle.

The journalists returned a day later and filed reports vigorously refuting the claims and, to add insult to injury, praising the military sophistication of the large guerrilla battalion they had encountered, all of whose weaponry and uniforms had recently been captured from the Army.

At the prompting of the American Embassy, an enraged Colonel Cienfuegos, head of Army press relations, was sent to the US - his mission to goad 19 eminent news editors to take a more sympathetic line towards the Army war effort. Evidently briefed in

Washington to be more accessible to the foreign press, Colonel Cienfuegos returned and immediately organized a news conference with the previously inaccessible Army Chief of Staff.

Two days later, there was another unprecedented news conference, this time with Colonel Carranza, (head of the Treasury Police), generally considered to be the most repressive branch of El Salvador's notorious security forces.

Bizarrely, Colonel Carranza sent all the journalists on their way with copies of a record by the Treasury Police Band which included music by the Beatles. Late last year, the same Colonel Carranza expelled an AP journalist because he did not like his reports.

While the official Army spokesmen have been putting on odd-fitting kid gloves lately in their treatment of the press, the extreme right has been giving journalists verbal lashings born of deep feelings of resentment, essentially, at what

they represent - the attempt by the US to shape the way Salvadoreans should run their country.

Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the extreme right's presidential candidate on March 25 and an open enemy of America, has not had good relations with the foreign press for two years. Just before elections for a Constituent Assembly, reporter after reporter would come up to him and ask: "Is it true what the say that you are a pathological killer?"

At a lunch last week, the cashed major continued with a series of attacks on the foreign press, saying that international reporters were not only ignorant liars but, preposterously, that they were members of El Salvador's death squads.

Clearly what irks the Army and the right-wing establishment most is that foreign journalists do not report the news in the reassuring manner of the Salvadorean press, which they have traditionally owned and tailored to their taste.

Mitterrand's London mission

From Ian Murray, Brussels

M. Mitterrand has been jet-setting around Europe to find out how far the rest of the Community is prepared to go to meet Mrs Thatcher's two main demands. He knows better than anyone what the "bottom line" is in each country. His task as president of the Council is to work out how close that bottom line is to that of the British Prime Minister.

Her first condition for a settlement at the summit is that there should be firm control of the budget, especially on agricultural spending. Here, there has been considerable progress and agricultural ministers meet again in Brussels today to continue their negotiations for a package of reforms and prices.

France last week made a significant concession in admitting publicly for the first time that there would have to be cutbacks in production of surplus commodities, including milk. This shows that even the most agriculturally protective

Khmer Rouge claim crippling attack on base

From David Watts
Singapore

The Khmer Rouge has claimed its most telling success of the year with an attack on Siem Reap airport in north-west Cambodia.

According to the Khmer Rouge army radio the airport was crippled in a recent night attack in which its control tower was destroyed along with fuel tanks and a hangar.

If the claims are accurate the Khmer Rouge has struck an important tactical blow against the Vietnamese Army in Cambodia. Siem Reap is the principal forward air supply terminal for the battlefield, handling equipment coming in from the Soviet Union.

The Khmer Rouge made no claim of damaged or destroyed aircraft but supplies usually come in on board four-engined Antonov 12 heavy transports which are not normally there.

Record total of drug addicts expected

By Stewart Tendler

The number of drug addicts notified to the Home Office in 1983 is expected to top 10,000 for the first time according to projections circulating among officials and drug abuse experts. The figures, due to be published later this year, are expected to show a big increase on the 8,144 addicts notified in 1982.

The number of new addicts registered last year with the Home Office has been put at slightly over 4,000, an increase of about 35 per cent on the 1982 figure. The figures indicate the increasing use of narcotics in Britain, particularly heroin.

Unofficial estimates of the addict population put the true figure at at least 40,000 because many addicts are never notified, reach official notice some time after they have become addicted or are addicted to drugs which are not notifiable.

The projected figure for 1983 compares with a total figure of 3,023 in 1973 which means the officially recognized addict population has risen by more than three-fold in a decade. In fact the totals crept up only slowly until the start of the 1980s, when they began to rise rapidly.

One reason for the increase was a glut of cheap heroin from South-West Asia, and particularly Pakistan, in 1979. The area, sometimes known as the "Golden Crescent", is still the main supplier to Britain but there are suggestions that other suppliers could be entering the market.

Customs intelligence suggests that by the end of the year suppliers from South-East Asia, the notorious "Golden Triangle", may be attempting to find markets in Britain. There are also reports that attempts could be made to reopen the supply of Iranian heroin.



Army for sale: Mr John Hanington (right) and (above) some of his model soldiers.

Surgeon's tabletop army could fetch £100,000

A Harley Street surgeon's private army of 22,000 toy and model soldiers, thought to be the largest collection to come to auction, will be sold by Phillips, the fine art auctioneers, in London in May. Its estimated value is more than £100,000.

It was amassed by Mr John Hanington, a gynaecologist, over the past 30 years during

which he searched the world for the rarest toy soldiers. He died last July aged 57.

Although his collection spans the whole range of military miniatures, from old German tin and lead soldiers to modern plastic and foam-rubber figures, it has valuable contingent of medical figures as befits the hobby of a surgeon.



Boarding school beats flu bug

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A school for about 20 years. Yet an analysis of annual infection shows that in epidemic years up to a third of pupils at Malvern were ill during the spring term, disrupting their studies and the sporting programme.

When indications of an outbreak became apparent last year the new treatment was given to pupils whose parents agreed. A capsule containing 100 milligrams of the drug was given once a day for 14 days.

The results showed that those infected against the virus, compared with those who had been vaccinated.

Dr D. K. Taylor and Dr P. A. Purdham, of Malvern College and the Worcester Royal Infirmary, suggest that the outbreak might have died down with a few days had all pupils been given amantadine.

However, some new cases after its administration had been stopped showed that it was necessary to continue treatment until four days after the last identified case.

550 من الأصم

Swedes describe landing by frogmen near Karlskrona naval base

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

The latest hunt for suspected Soviet submarines in Swedish waters took a dramatic turn yesterday. The Navy confirmed that "several" frogmen had attempted to come ashore during the night on and around the southern naval base of Karlskrona, only to be driven back by sub-machinegun fire, hand grenades, and depth charges dropped by helicopter.

More explosions echoed around the party-frozen bay off Karlskrona yesterday as the Navy followed through with the detonation of more depth charges, and police with dogs patrolled islands with armed conscripts guarding all bridges and beaches in the area.

Swedish radio gave hourly bulletins as the search, now in its third week, suddenly escalated into a media event.

Previously, it had attracted only minimal attention with many Swedes seemingly accepting the Soviet newspaper *Isvestia's* derisive reference to Swedish "periscope sickness".

The Government seems to have written off the hunt, Mr Anders Thunborg, the Defence Minister, went ahead with plans for a visit to the United States today. Mr Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, took a skiing holiday, and Mr Lennart Bodström, the Foreign Minister, flew to Paris yesterday before a meeting with officials of the

Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Perhaps even more indicative of its attitude was a three-day visit to Moscow starting today by Mr Jan Eliasson, a senior Foreign Ministry official to patch up relations after the last submarine incident when Sweden in April, 1983, named the Soviet Union as the aggressor and demanded an end to incursions.

One of the difficulties in taking the Swedish military seriously is the strange terminology it uses.

Admiral Bror Stefenson, the Chief of Defence Staff, spoke of "several strange persons trying to come ashore on several occasions" on Ålm Island, while Lieutenant Colonel Jan Åke Berg said shots had been fired "for purposes of warning and protection." Another naval spokesman referred to "frogmen-like persons".

The new flare-up comes after an incident last Wednesday in which two conscripts say they saw a frogman climb ashore on the same island. He was apparently chased for 500 yards but disappeared into the water on the other side of the island.

The Navy obviously believes he was picked up by a submarine waiting in deeper water, still in Swedish territory

but beyond the sealed-off area where the hunt is concentrated. Depth charges were later dropped by a helicopter.

The latest frogmen are believed to be the crews of two midget submarines trapped in the bay off Karlskrona. They are thought to be attempting to escape to a "mother vessel" on the other side of the bay.

That the Soviet Navy has an interest in activities at Karlskrona was proved beyond reasonable doubt in October, 1981, when a Russian Whiskey class submarine armed with nuclear weapons ran aground only eight nautical miles from the base. After a strong protest, Sweden towed it back into international waters. Moscow "regretted" the incident but maintained that it was all due to navigational error.

The Swedish Navy found the submarine only after it had lain aground for 12 hours. It was finally spotted by a fisherman who telephoned the naval base.

Yesterday even Admiral Stefenson admitted that the present hunt "could take a long time". He added: "We shall make it as difficult as possible for them to get out. We must get better and better at this sort of thing".

It was not a vastly reassuring performance, but it had the merit of honesty.

Violence in Punjab and Haryana kills three

Delhi (Reuters) - Three people were killed and about 14 injured in communal violence in the northern Indian states of Punjab and Haryana on Saturday, the Press Trust of India yesterday reported.

One person was killed and about 12 were injured when Sikhs and Hindus fought at a village near the Haryana town of Sonapat. Another person was shot dead by what the agency described as terrorists near the town of Bhatinda, about 90 miles south of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. No arrests have been made.

More than 70 people have died and about 300 have been injured in three weeks of Hindu-Sikh violence in the two states. Clashes flared in Punjab, where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live, after a militant Hindu group held a *bandh* on February 12 to protest at what it saw as favoured treatment of Sikhs by the Government.

Two rival Sikh militants have called on their followers in the Punjab to unite. The appeals were made by Harmand Singh Longowal, president of the main Sikh party, the Akali Dal, and the hardline religious leader, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, told a meeting in Uttar Pradesh that the Government was watching the situation and would act if necessary.



Not what it seems: An advertisement for flats to let in Cologne takes the form of an eye-catching mural

A shaky Chernenko goes to the polls

Moscow (AFP) - Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the Soviet leader, appeared to be having trouble walking yesterday when he arrived at a central Moscow polling station to cast his vote in elections to the Supreme Soviet. More than 99 per cent of the country's 160 million voters were expected to help choose 1,500 candidates for the two chamber House, which meets for short sessions twice yearly to approve laws and will elect the country's next President.

For the first time since becoming Party Secretary, Mr Chernenko was accompanied in public by his wife Anna. He swept up to the Krasnaya Presnia polling station in a huge black Zil limousine, closely tailed by bodyguards.

The ballot papers bore the names of the Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, aged 78, for the Soviet of the Union and Natalia Orlova, aged 28, a member of the Young Communist movement, for the Soviet of Nationalities.

While the election offers no choice, Western experts say it enables the party to engage in a form of dialogue with the people, confirming its legitimacy.

Soviet officials say the one-seat, one candidate method is superior to the multi-party "bourgeois democracy" practised in the West. The theory is that the most qualified person is put forward.

Shake-up in Pakistan's military command

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan has retired two of his most senior military officers, and replaced them with his most trusted colleagues.

A Defence Ministry statement said that General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and General Sawar Khan, Deputy Chief of Army Staff, would be replaced by Lieutenant General Rahimuddin Khan, Governor of Baluchistan, and Lieutenant General Khalid Mahmud Arif respectively, with the rank of full general.

General Iqbal and General Sawar would retire on March 22 having stayed in their respective posts on extended terms, normally three years.

No appointments in place of General Rahimuddin and General Arif have so far been announced. Some political quarters, however, expect replacement of military governors in the four provinces, but there is no official indication of civilians replacing the military as yet.

It is noteworthy that General Zia, who seems to retain a firm grip on the military hierarchy, has made changes in what is regarded as election year.

He is pledged to hold elections and transfer power to an elected government by March 1985.

Trevor Fishlock in Canada

Quebec's lone wolf out in the cold



As he looked out over the snow-covered roofs of this handsome city at the ice flows swirling down the St Lawrence, René Lévesque must reflect that it is a cold political winter too.

The lone wolf Premier of Quebec, champion of independence and one of the dominant figures in Canadian politics since the mid-1970s, now contemplates the faded dream.

He has always been a mercurial man, a chain-smoking bundle of nervous energy. But his vitality has drained as he has become snappy and isolated - the wolf at bay.

His Parti Québécois, which took power seven years ago in a wave of excitement, has run aground. Its membership has fallen from 300,000 to 160,000 in three years. The young in particular, are drifting away, bored by it.

There is resentment over the party's failure of its support, have been alienated. In a recent poll, 24 per cent of Quebecers said they would vote for the party and 66 per cent for the Liberal challengers, who believe the PQ may be finished.

It is remarkable that the party which invented in 1968 a vigorous assertion of the new spirit of Quebec and whose surprise victory in 1976 sent a shiver through Canada now looks so middle-aged, worn by desertion and dissent.

Mr Lévesque, the popular television journalist who became a political hero among the 4.8 million French-speakers who make up four-fifths of the province's people, faces a bleak political future. The polls are not necessarily reliable and Quebec is volatile; but the party's difficulties are plainly profound.

The PQ has to confront the fact that interest in independence - the party's *raison d'être* - continues to recede. In the 1980 referendum, three-fifths of Quebecers rejected it. Significantly, just over half the francophones said no. In a recent poll, 72 per cent of Quebecers rejected secession.

But the PQ is stuck with the independence question. This, and criticism of Mr Lévesque's

leadership, will fuel heated debate at the party's conference in June.

"Lévesque was a crusader rather than a politician and the PQ more a theology than a political machine," a Quebec political columnist said. "It had romance and excitement but the dream broke on the realities of government".

The party's stock with the unions slumped when it sought to manage the economy, cut public sector spending and freeze wages. The way things are going, the party is heading for defeat in the next elections in 1986. But the province is unpredictable and the PQ's opponents remember how it was re-elected in 1981, bouncing back from its referendum reverse.

Nevertheless, the Liberals feel they can regain power. They have resurrected Mr Robert Bourassa who led them from 1970 to 1976 and whose unpopularity contributed to their crushing defeat by the PQ in 1976.

Mr Bourassa has none of Mr Lévesque's old charisma, no way with words. He is dry and emotionless by comparison. His message has not changed much and Quebecers may feel they will be reading the same book twice.

The political fact disturbing many politicians and observers is the apathy and disenchantment of young voters. To the young people, both parties look stuffy and politeness mundane. At 61, Mr Lévesque no longer looks glamorous.

"Youngsters are looking for a leader, maybe an ecology party. Anything could happen,"



Mr Lévesque: Worn by desertion and dissent.

June date to pick Trudeau successor

Ottawa (Reuters) - A successor to Mr Pierre Trudeau as Canadian Prime Minister will be chosen at a convention of the ruling Liberal Party in Ottawa from June 14-17.

The party's national executive held a hastily arranged strategy meeting after Mr Trudeau announced last Wednesday that he planned to resign after 15 years as party leader. The former Finance Minister, Mr John Turner, who left the Trudeau Cabinet in 1975 over policy differences, is tipped to take over.

Mr Trudeau, aged 64, who said his resignation would be effective as soon as a successor is chosen, will probably attend a seven-nation economic summit of Western industrial powers in London from June 7-9 before he retires.

The timing of the convention will give the new Prime Minister the option of calling a late-summer election.

Seven prisoners die on 46th day of Turkish fast

From Rasit Gurdilek Ankara

Seven of the 43 prisoners on hunger strike in Diyarbakir Military Prison in south east Turkey, died on Friday, the 46th day of the fast, it was announced at the weekend.

Mrs Sakine Arat said that the body of her son, Mr Cemal Arat, aged 27, was given to relatives while she was here picketing the political party headquarters for an improvement in prison conditions. Mr Arat was accused of being a member of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, she said. Several others were reported to be either in coma or critically ill.

Amnesty International recently expressed concern about Diyarbakir prison. It has received persistent reports of torture and maltreatment of prisoners.

Sir.

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The Territorials

Poll fever grips Jordan as 142 contest eight East Bank seats

From Christopher Walker, Amman

For the first time since losing the West Bank in 1967, Jordan is experiencing election fever of a type all too rare in the Arab world. It reflects the stability of King Hussein's monarchy after a turbulent reign which has embraced 31 years and countless assassination attempts.

From the green north to the arid south of the Hashemite kingdom, streets are mushrooming with banners, windows plastered with posters and coffee shops thick with political gossip in anticipation of today's poll to fill the eight vacant East Bank seats in the recalled parliament.

The results will provide a pointer to the state of public opinion at a time when Jordan is passing through one of the most sensitive stages of its relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Already, a call for an early general election has emerged as one of the main campaign issues.

The whole Palestinian question (including the debate about who speaks for Palestinians) is playing a crucial role, particularly in Amman, where more than 75 per cent of the population is Palestinian.

Some candidates have pasted up posters of themselves fraternally embracing Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chief, who was here last week.

Although there are no legalized parties (they were banned in the 1950s when the king's rule was under serious threat), there is an enthusiastic total of 142 (independents) competing for the eight seats.

Many represent established political points of view and are backed by extended families of loose groupings of supporters. In a region where freedom of

speech is not commonplace the candidates are under remarkably few restrictions apart from orders neither to insult the monarch nor to call for violent constitutional changes. Televised electioneering has been ruled out because of the impossibility of giving equal time.

Slogans on the banners fluttering throughout Amman range from such radical declarations as "No to Camp David", "No to Reagan, No to Israel" to more prosaic promises. One aspiring parliamentarian pledges to "support the athletic movement and youth".

For the first time, Jordanian women will have the vote, another sign of the gradual liberalization which distinguishes life here so markedly from that under more extreme Arab regimes. There are signs that the female vote could have a marked effect in certain seats.

I was permitted to attend the first election meeting for

women ever held in the kingdom, a surprisingly outspoken affair staged in Salt, an ancient city resting in the Biblical hills of Gilead. The voters present, whose dress ranged from high fashion to Islamic headscarves, appeared anxious to participate fully in the democratic process.

"They are just as excited as British women must have been when they first got the vote", explained the candidate, Dr Germal Shair, a gynaecologist aged 55, with a cheerful Irish wife. He is favourite to win one of the three vacant seats in Salt. The by-elections have been caused by the deaths of deputies returned at the last poll, 17 years ago.

For 30 years, Dr Shair was a member of the opposition Baath Party, and has twice been jailed for his views. Now he emerges, like all candidates, as a strong supporter of King Hussein. The politicians are now more mature and the king is less afraid, the doctor told me.

In a country whose population is more than 60 per cent Palestinian, the noisy campaign has pointed up Jordan's demographic complexities. Although Palestinians now resident in the East Bank are eligible to stand, in practice very few have chosen to do so, apparently in order not to lay stress on what is Jordan's most divisive internal issue.

"As things stand, it is a problem if Palestinians stand for East Bank seats, and a problem if they do not, as they are being denied a basic right", Dr Shair told me. "My amendments would drive home to the world the problems being caused by Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank".



King Hussein: Elections reflect stability.

Sudan rebel pledge to free mother and baby

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Southern Sudanese rebels have announced that they are freeing, on humanitarian grounds, a pregnant West German woman and her son, aged one, who were among six hostages seized three weeks ago in an attack on the camp of a French construction company near Malakal.

The announcement to free Mrs Ursula Morson and her son Lloyd was made by the Ethiopian News Agency in Addis Ababa, which said Ethiopia had been asked by the Sudan People's Liberation Army to arrange their return to the West.

Officials of the West German embassy in Addis Ababa expect the pair to arrive soon, but had no other information. They had arranged for a gynaecologist to attend Mrs Morson as soon as she arrived.

Mrs Morson's husband, a Kenyan who was working on the Jonglei canal project in Southern Sudan, is still being held, along with a British technician, Mr Ian Bain, and two French technicians.

The French company has withdrawn its staff from the canal project, and work is at a standstill.

Rebel groups have launched attacks after Sudan's recent action to divide the southern region into three smaller units and to apply Islamic law throughout Sudan.

In a speech in Khartoum at the weekend, President Nimeiry made his first gesture of conciliation to the rebels, saying he believed they had been misled into taking up arms against their motherland.

● **ADDIS ABABA:** The West German Embassy here later expressed concern today about the whereabouts of the woman and child. A spokesman said: "We are increasingly concerned at the lack of information."

Arafat visitors risk Israeli discipline

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

The Israeli Cabinet yesterday approved secret "instructions" to deal with 42 West Bank Palestinian moderates who defied the military authorities and met Mr Yasser Arafat in Amman.

Mr Dan Meridor, the Cabinet Secretary, said the instructions were "consistent with the long-standing government policy prohibiting meetings between residents of the administered territories and terrorist leaders".

Prominent Israeli left-wingers have met Mr Arafat in the past and have not been prosecuted. Mr Meridor said the laws applying to residents of the occupied areas were different.

The Cabinet also discussed Lebanon after hearing a report from Major General Eiland Barak, the director of military intelligence.

Mr Meridor said Israel had not been told that the May 17 agreement was being abrogated. Reports that President

Gemayel met an Israeli official in Rhodes on his way back from Damascus were denied in Jerusalem. It was pointed out that Israel was in regular contact with all Lebanese communities and there was no need for clandestine meetings.

In the West Bank, masked men ambushed a bus taking villagers to Jerusalem and injured seven men, the Palestine Press Service reported. An Israeli Army spokesman said the incident was being investigated.

The agency said the bus, carrying 60 labourers and students from El Mizrah El Shargia to Jerusalem, was attacked at 6 am.

● **Sidon blast:** Eleven Israeli soldiers and several Lebanese civilians were injured yesterday when three explosive charges went off as the Israelis entered the harbour of this south Lebanon city (AP reports).

Iran threatens to close Hormuz after Iraqi raid

By Our Foreign Staff

The Speaker of Iran's parliament said yesterday that an Iraqi warplane which recently attacked Iran's Kharg island oil terminal was shot down, and that Iran would close the Strait of Hormuz if Iraq mounted a successful raid.

Mr Holatollah Ali Akbar Rafsanjani told Tehran radio that Iraq had launched previous air and missile attacks against the terminal, which had caused slight damage.

Iranian oil exports, Iran would react by closing the Strait at the entrance to the Gulf, and the closure would be prolonged if the United States intervened, he said.

He said the Strait would remain closed until damage at Kharg island was repaired.

unless there was US intervention.

● **BOMBAY:** An Indian cargo ship on charter to Iran was hit by an Iraqi missile in the Gulf last week, the vessel's owners said yesterday.

A spokesman for Apcejay Lines told Reuters that APJ Ambika, a vessel carrying general cargo, was hit on March 1 as it sailed under Iranian naval escort.

● **ABU DHABI:** The Arab League is considering a new attempt to end the Iran-Iraq war using mediators from Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Algeria, countries considered acceptable to both sides, it was disclosed yesterday (AFP reports).

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Hatred of both Palestinian guerrillas and Israeli soldiers

The smiling shaikh who approves of Khomeini

From Robert Fisk, Adloun, southern Lebanon

Shaikh Ali Mahdi Ibrahim looks all of his 64 years. His beard is streaked with grey, his face is lined and he walks with the help of a well-polished wooden cane. But he smiles a lot, especially when you ask if he receives any kind of instructions - military or religious - from Iran.

"We do not receive our teachings from anybody", he says. "We get our teachings from ourselves, Iran takes its lessons from us."

If Iran does not actually learn from the village of Adloun, huddled in the rain clouds high above the Mediterranean coast just south of Sidon, it would probably view the little hamlet with approval. In four years, it has shown its hatred - sometimes violently - of both Palestinian guerrillas and Israeli soldiers.

Old Shaikh Ibrahim once studied in Najaf, the Iraqi city where Ayatollah Khomeini lived in exile for 15 years. The

Shaikh knows Khomeini well. "He has the same line as us", he says. "He thinks the same thoughts. He is a religious man. He believes in God's knowledge."

Shaikh Ibrahim's own knowledge is a matter of profound interest to the villagers of Adloun. When he speaks to visitors in his living room, he is invariably surrounded by an admiring group of young men.

Hanging on every word

They hang on his every word, nodding and vigorous agreement. Only when you sit down opposite the village shaikh in southern Lebanon do you realize how they have come to dominate their Shia Lebanese neighbours. The Lebanese mukhtars here lost their ascendancy long ago, their feudal prestige wiped out by years of civil warfare.

The Palestinians were the first to regret their visit to Adloun. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine pitched camp on a hill 500 yards from the village and

ignored the inhabitants' demand to leave. They found themselves under fire from the armed population of Adloun.

"The Palestinian revolution produced a difficult situation here", Shaikh Ibrahim says. "There was a...". He pauses for a long time. "There was a 'diversion' in the revolution and they started to harass us. So there were many troubles between us. Our people here refuse to let anybody stay on their land except the legal Lebanese Government."

Shaikh Ibrahim's current animosity, however, is directed at more recent occupiers. He is induced to talk about his growing din outside his window, the roar of low-flying Israeli jets sweeping in from the sea.

The Israelis send armoured patrols in here and they send planes over. They send in foot patrols. Sometimes, they raid the village. They take away youths whenever they have an accusation against them.

"They took two men away early in January, then they took another 15 away. They sent nine back, but the rest

they put in the Ansar camp."

Then the anger comes flowing from Shaikh Ibrahim, the smiles forgotten. "We rejected the Israelis from the beginning. We are an occupied people. There is a saying: 'Food eaten by others is rejected by us.' It is like Europe and the Nazis here. The Nazis murdered people, and now the relatives of those who died take their revenge on us here."

American and Soviet battle

The jets race over the village again and Shaikh Ibrahim points upwards as if this somehow gives confirmation to his disturbing, violent words. "As clergymen", he says, "we serve the people as a whole against the Israeli occupation. We resisted the Palestinians, who were Muslims, when they tried to harass us. It is not a question of whether people are bad. It is not a matter of sin. The question is that of oppression."

Shaikh Ibrahim is all ignorance when you ask about gunmen in the village. "I have no knowledge of the armed organizations here", he says. "But I support them and I agree with what they do."

He realizes that such statements require some kind of qualification. "Why do you and the Americans call the Shia people here terrorists? The Americans are in the Middle East to further their cause and say they want to fight against communism. The Israelis are their allies. But of all people, we would fight communism here. There is a battle between the Americans and the Soviets. Why should we pay the price?"

When we leave, Shaikh Ibrahim does not accompany us to the door, but the young men around him do. And, when we walk into the street, the Israeli planes come back, four of them so low that we can see the pilots in their cockpits, their delta-winged aircraft trailing condensation through the rain clouds above us.

One of the young men points upwards. "They are not powerful. They are not powerful", he keeps shouting against the thunder of the jets. "They have no power."

Skeleton in bag starts a scandal

From Our Correspondent, Tel Aviv

A wave of revulsion swept Israel yesterday when a human skeleton in a plastic bag, which had been dumped in a Muslim cemetery, was identified as the remains of Mrs Theresa Engelawitz, which rabbinical authorities had proposed exhuming from a Jewish cemetery because they had not recognized her as Jewish.

The half-buried bag was found on Saturday night by children playing in Ramle cemetery, pathologists who examined the skeleton said they had established, on the strength of dental tests and X-rays that it was that of Mrs Engelawitz.

An immigrant from Romania, she died in December, 1982, and was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Rishon Le Zion, but some neighbours told local rabbis that she had not been converted properly to Judaism.

The rabbis, with the consent of the chief rabbis in Jerusalem, ordered the body to be reburied near the cemetery fence, but the bereaved family blocked them by filing suit in a civil court, and getting an injunction from the High Court halting the exhumation pending the outcome of the suit.

The family said they had been harassed on the telephone, and the tombstone over the grave had been removed.

The chief rabbis joined the chorus of denunciation yesterday, but said that as the body had been exhumed, it should be buried where it belongs.

Hassan pledges to suspend tax on farmers

From Geoffrey Morrison, Rabat

King Hassan of Morocco has told his country's farmers, hand-picked by years of drought and now by a generally depressed economy, that there will be no taxes on earnings from agriculture until the end of the century.

King Hassan made the pledge in a nationwide radio and television broadcast on Saturday marking the twenty-third anniversary of his becoming Morocco's monarch.

Liberalizing developing countries, Morocco has experienced in recent years a rapid migration of its population from the countryside to the towns.

Once a net food exporter, its massive grain imports have become a principal cause of its chronic balance of payments problems.

Greens worry about their image

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

It is a year tomorrow since the radical Greens won an unprecedented 5.6 per cent of the vote in West Germany's general election entitling them to 27 seats (plus a representative from West Berlin) in the Bundestag.

They brought with their unconventional outlook an attitude of promise of lively opposition to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government and hopes of a fresh approach to politics. Twelve months later the fissiparous party has been taking stock of its policies in Karlsruhe and attempting to look beyond what has been a poor first year.

Ignored and outmanoeuvred by Government and Opposition, the Greens in Parliament have been criticized as ineffective. Splits between left-wing fundamentalists and more pragmatic politicians have led to the resignation of one member of the parliamentary faction, dissipating their energies and focused attention on personality clashes and embarrassing squabbles instead of policies.

Over the weekend, some 1,200 delegates tried to give new direction to the party by

debating its policies for election to the European Parliament in June and selecting 15 candidates.

The Greens hope to be represented by five to six members in Strasbourg. This would be the base to form links with like-minded people in the European Community in the struggle for the "screening" of Europe.

But the congress showed the overwhelming hostility of the party to the EEC and all its works. Delegates rejected any increase in the powers of the European Parliament. They accused it of carrying out damaging policies and helping militarization of Europe, and said the Community was bent on trying to turn itself into a West European superpower.

The Greens said the present political set-up of the European Parliament was unsuited to the solution of ecological problems in Europe or elsewhere. The Greens, however, would campaign for a nuclear-free, demilitarized and non-aligned Europe.

Delegates also sharply attacked the Community's

economic and farm policies, the former were against the interests of workers and favoured untrammelled profit-making by big capital, while the latter had led to the ruin of small farmers.

The Greens tried to avoid getting bogged down in their internal problems. But by voting that Green members of the European Parliament would, like colleagues in the Bundestag, have to give up their seats to other party members halfway through their term, they raised the issue of "rotation", one of the vexed issues now troubling the party.

This was one of the main reasons why General Gert Bastian, a leading party member, and a valuable member of the Bundestag's defence committee, resigned last month from the faction, complaining of political intrigue and disorganization.

Frau Petra Kelly, one of the party speakers and a close friend of General Bastian, said in a report to the Karlsruhe congress that the Greens were now in the midst of their most serious crisis.

Nigerian Muslim riots

1,000 killed in week of religious fighting

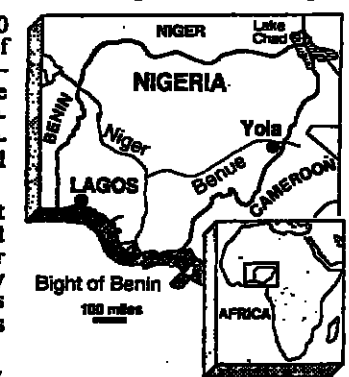
Lagos (Reuters) - Up to 1,000 people have died in a week of religious violence in the north-east Nigerian town of Yola, the government-owned *New Nigerian* newspaper reported yesterday, and fighting was still raging.

The newspaper said about 500 bodies had been removed from the town's hospital for mass burial. The News Agency of Nigeria said that 100 bodies were buried in another mass grave on Tuesday.

Troops moved in on Friday to quell fighting by Muslim fundamentalists, who had regrouped and, according to police, were using "sophisticated weapons" to beat their men.

The religious violence, Nigeria's third outbreak in three years, was started by followers of the Muslim fundamentalist leader, Muhammadu Marwa Matintine. He was killed in rioting in the northern city of Kano three years ago. An official report said later that more than 4,000 people died in those riots, which were suppressed by the Army.

Yesterday's newspaper report said the streets of Yola were littered with bodies of suspected Muslim fanatics lynched by mobs. It said many people were killed in crossfire when they



emerged from the rioters' enclave.

Hundreds of men, women and children who fled their homes were camped in refugee sheds, in police and army barracks and in an open field.

The report said medical units moved into camps on Saturday after an outbreak of measles and chicken-pox. Food and meat were running out in Yola after the main market was burned down a week ago and commercial activity was brought to a complete standstill.

The military governor of Gongola state, of which Yola is the capital, said in a radio broadcast on Friday that the Army and police were combing all areas "declared free zones" to enable families to return home.

Catholics protest in Versailles

Versailles (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of people poured out to the streets of Versailles yesterday to protest against plans to bring private education in France under tighter state control.

Waving banners - "a free country should have free schools" - the marchers called for the resignation of the Education Minister, M Alain Savary, who drew up the reform plans. Organizers said 600,000 gathered at Versailles, for the western rim of Paris, for the protest, the largest in a series of nationwide marches in support of France's 10,000 mainly Catholic private schools.

"We are here to defend freedom," one woman said - "freedom of education for our children and freedom of choice for parents."

Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris, has called on President Mitterrand to take heed of "the national consensus" and abandon his 1981 election promise to secularize education. The Mayor of Paris, M Jacques Chirac, was among a number of politicians at the Versailles protest.

Recent surveys have shown that about 70 per cent of French people are in favour of maintaining the present system under which private schools pay their own operating costs but receive state aid for teachers

Six killed by death squads in Sri Lanka

Colombo (AFP) - Police investigators believe death squads are operating in Sri Lanka's troubled north where six young people have been killed since Wednesday. Tamil separatists are seeking to set up an independent state in the north.

The latest casualty was a Tamil youth shot dead on Saturday, police found his body tied to a lamp post near a bus terminus in Kankasanthurai, about 250 miles from Colombo.

Several of the victims were found tied to telegraph poles or lamp posts, with notes either on their bodies or lying nearby. Some of those killed were suspected of being involved in a spate of recent bank robberies.

Priest and his lover appeal

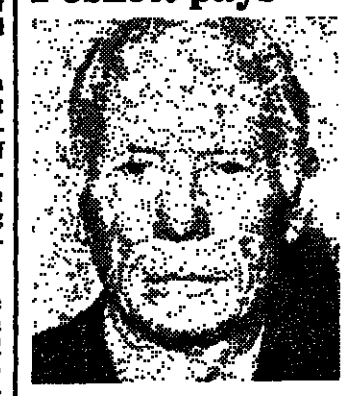
Colombo (Reuters) - An Anglican priest also known as an exorcist, and his secretary who became his lover, have appealed against death sentences passed on them here after they were convicted of murdering their spouses.

The Rev Mathew Peiris aged 67, and Mrs Dahene Ingram aged 37, were sentenced on February 15 after the prosecution alleged that they killed the priest's wife Eunice and Mrs Ingram's husband Russell by forcing them to take an anti-diabetic drug.

Press anger

Dhaka (Reuters) - Foreign correspondents in Bangladesh have accused the military Government of censoring reports during a general strike last Thursday by delaying their transmission for more than 24 hours.

Posnett pays



Sir Richard Posnett, the former governor of Bermuda who resigned a year ago and who has paid back nearly \$15,000 claimed by the Bermuda Government on expenses charged to the governor's entertainment allowance.

Friendship call

Peking (AP) - The 19,000-ton Mikhail Lermontov docked in Shanghai yesterday, the first Soviet passenger ship to visit China's largest port in 20 years.

Going West

Bonn (Reuters) - The Hamburg newspaper *Bild am Sonntag* reported that East German had copied relatives of the East German Prime Minister Willi Stoph and fled to West Germany's embassy in Prague in a bid to emigrate.

Gas capped

Ottawa - Well capping specialists have succeeded after 10 days in bringing under control a natural gas blow-out on an oil rig in the North Atlantic off Sable Island, 150 miles east of Halifax.

Beaten to death

Pau, France (Reuters) - The mutilated body of Señor Jesus Gaztanaga, a Spanish Basque exile beaten to death was found by police in a tennis court here.

Metric China

Peking (AFP) - China will adopt the international metric system by 1990, according to the New China news agency. At the moment the traditional Chinese system of weights and measures and the British system are used.

Fatal error

Rio de Janeiro (AFP) - The Brazilian national oil company Petrobras has blamed human error for a gas main explosion which killed 88 people on February 25 in a shanty town in Cubatão, 50 miles south east of Sao Paulo.

Poison lost

Copenhagen - The Danish Ministry of the Environment has called off a futile five-week search for 80 barrels of highly poisonous agricultural weed killer washed overboard from a Danish vessel in the North Sea in mid-January.

In the dark

Hong Kong (AP) - A power failure blacked out most of Hong Kong for more than three hours at midday yesterday, trapping more than 100 people in elevators and causing traffic jams.

Cow's lick

Trier (AFP) - Lissel, a five-year-old cow, which is supposed to make hair grow by licking men's heads, is being used by a hairdresser in this town near the Luxembourg Border, the *Bild am Sonntag* weekly newspaper said.

[illegible]

THE ARTS

Opera

Orpheus and Eurydice
Grand, Leeds

Looking back is not something that any Orpheus encourages one to undertake lightly, but the connections are too close to be missed between Philip Prowse's new production of Gluck's opera for Opera North, and David Freeman's staging of Monteverdi's for the Coliseum.

Once again, we have the myth enacted by a struggle of reasents of some vaguely modern period, and indeterminate place. Once again, the action takes place in a clear, airy space, though one bounded by broken classical columns and inscribed tablets.

And once again the movement has a physical intensity, whether that comes from the wall of starkly lit bodies which is the chorus of the damned, or from the reluctant eagerness of Orpheus pressing out of the crowd at the start or from the enigmatic sensuality of the final dancing.

The difference is that this string and simple style suits Gluck much better than it does Monteverdi. Mr Prowse also takes a productive new route for the reentry of a classical perspective by dressing Amor as Cherubino and having him present on stage throughout the continuously played opera, trying to understand what is going on, starting when he hears the grieving hero give his name (this must be the man he has come to address), finally taking hold of Orpheus's face in hopeless efforts to prevent the fatal glance.

He is the pretext for the score being as it is, the story is something less graceful. It is, as it emerges in a powerful staging of the crucial scene between Orpheus and Eurydice, a disturbing image of the uselessness of even the most violent passion.

This requires from the Orpheus a performance of unusual urgency, which Felicity Palmer amply provides. Parts of the first act do not tie well for her, but she has the forwardness of expression to match the haunted, stricken person she cuts: "Che fare," is not a lament, but a keening riven with despair and a sense of futility, yet sung by a character one cannot imagine losing his Gluckian nobility.

Cathryn Pope sings brightly, and acts intelligently in the now important part of Amor, and Patricia Rozario is a Eurydice of tenderness and vocal beauty not wholly masking a sense of icality deeper than Orpheus's.

The opera, a melange leaning more towards the Paris, is sung in a new translation of Andrew Porter and trenchantly conducted by David Lloyd-Jones.

Paul Griffiths

Athene Seyler, now in her ninety-fifth year, is Britain's last great link with the Victorian theatre. Sheridan Morley interviews the actress who knew Irving and worked with Tree

The history of modern acting personified

Just over three-quarters of a century ago, in July 1908, the drama critic of this newspaper attended an end-of-term matinee at what was then the Academy of Dramatic Art and was now RADA. There he noticed "a student of intelligence and charm and plenty of humour, certainly the most promising pupil the Academy has yet had - there should be a fine career for an actress of such talent". And there was. Her name is Athene Seyler.

Miss Seyler is now 94, and lives in magnificent isolation in a flat above an old coach-house overlooking the Thames on the Hammersmith embankment; she has been officially retired for almost a decade, and made her last stage appearance at the reopening of the Lyric, Hammersmith, in 1979, standing on the faithful reconstruction of the stage where she had made her restoration-comedy name with Playfair back in the early 1920s. She comes of a long-lived generation: Cathleen Nesbitt, born in the same year, was working up to her death a few months ago, and in New York last year the English actress Estelle Winwood celebrated her centenary. But Athene Seyler is our last great link back to the Victorian theatre: she knew Irving and worked with Tree, and her stage career is the history of modern acting.

"I was never a great star myself, but I could always spot them: when I was a judge of acting at the Central School I gave both Olivier and Peggy Ashcroft their first diplomas, and then at RADA once they asked me to select the student of the year and I chose John Gielgud. He was doing a comedy, very badly, but I knew he was the one to watch. Irving to Olivier: that was my period."

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"I was a seventh child, you know, and my parents always referred to me as The Unmolested Nuisance. Mother had once lived next door to the Irvings in Hackney and he used to direct her in the local Christmas play there, so when I was about ten she took me to see him in *Becket* and when he came on for the death scene I fainted. He had an extraordinary kind of electric force: I'm not sure how good an actor he was, but when he came on stage you felt that you were in touch with something. It's what I've always felt about acting: you have to be in mental or spiritual touch with the audience, otherwise it's no good. Mother told him I wanted to act and he was very polite, but there wasn't really a lot he could do with an awkward little girl."

"Then father died and we were left without any money, so I earned my school fees by helping with the dancing classes. I also managed to save up £30 which I knew was a year's fees at the Academy so, when I was 17, I applied for an audition and I was sent into a room where Pinner, Squire Bancroft, and Lena Ashwell were all sitting behind a long table. That was when I did my Rosalind, and afterwards Lena Ashwell called me over and told me I had no qualifications for the stage whatsoever. I said I knew that and also that I was a very plain girl, but that I thought if I was allowed to recite I might be able to change her mind. So then I did some more Shakespeare and told them I'd got the £30 for the first year, so they let me in and I stayed to get the gold medal."

Lena Ashwell then took her straight to the Kingsway Theatre where she made her professional debut in February 1909 in *The Truants*, and for the next sixty years Athene Seyler was hardly ever out of work.

"I never asked for very much money, which always annoyed Edith Evans, and I think people liked working with me because I was always very easy-going and amenable. I very seldom had arguments, though I do remember once being very rude to Beerboom Tree. I'd taken a lot of trouble going to Languishon classes, so I could sound Portuguese for a part in some play he was directing, and at the first rehearsal he said my accent didn't sound very convincing. So I said perhaps he'd like to demonstrate for me how a Portuguese accent should sound, and after that he was extremely nice to me all through

rehearsals and never complained again.

"I was also lucky enough to play with Ellen Terry, who was adorable, gave me very good lunches and used to lie on sofas with her legs right up over her back. By the time I got to know her she couldn't remember a line and used to have all her dialogue written out in capital letters and then spread all over the set so she could peer at it from wherever she was standing."

In 1921, when she was already working for Playfair at the Lyric, Hammersmith, in *Love For Love*, Athene Seyler met and fell deeply in love with a marvellous actor called Nicholas Hanneken: her first marriage, to James Sterndale-Bennett (a sub-editor on *The Times*), had already been destroyed by his alcoholism, but Hanneken was still married to a Catholic wife who declined to give him a divorce. For almost forty years, until the death of the first Mrs Hanneken, they lived together in a relationship which outlasted many more formal ones.

"Oh, but he was a wonderful man. Once, you know, the best night of my life, I stood at the back of a theatre where he was doing *The Dover Road* and at the end the entire house just rose and shouted 'Hanneken! Splendid! Those were the days.' But the curious thing about me is that I was always considered an intellectual; actresses in my day weren't supposed to think much and I always looked as though I did, so I became a sort of critics' pet, not that there was much money in that. When Edith and I were in *The Dream* together at Drury Lane she was already on £30 a week and I was still on £15. But then Edith always had a Christian Science sense of money."

"Sometimes, you know, you'd get into a play and know within about two minutes of the curtain going up that you really shouldn't have bothered to start rehearsal. Once Felix Aylmer and I were in a new play by a supposedly promising young author which closed after only a couple of weeks; so Felix thought that to cheer the poor lad up he'd give him lunch at the Garrick. 'Do tell me', said Felix over the port, 'to what do you really attribute the failure of your play?' 'To you', said the young man."

"I suppose the one great change in the theatre during my lifetime has been the advent of the director. When I started out, with Sir Charles Wyndham or



Athene Seyler: magnificent isolation

Hawtry, the author would come along to the first rehearsal and read his play aloud, usually quite badly, after which the leading actor would take over rehearsal. They never gave you a complete script, just the pages on which you had something to say. Henry Arthur Jones read worst, in a strong cockney accent; Sueto was the best reader I ever heard. Then Wyndham would start from near one, and when he got to your first entrance he'd say: 'This is your scene, Miss Seyler, where would you like to play it?' and he'd arrange the other actors around you until it was their turn. Nowadays directors try to tell you even how to move your hands; I don't care for that. Guthrie was one of the early trouble-makers. 'Now Athene', he'd say, 'this is *The Cherry Orchard* so none of your usual tricks'. I felt as though I'd been found out, and for a while I lost a lot of confidence.

"But the general standard of acting is so much higher today; the trouble is that the plays are

so bad. I went to one of Mr Osborne's in which there was a death and an accident, so I left. I don't enjoy plays about misfortune. Rattigan was the last dramatic I really liked; somehow he made people act properly by the way he wrote."

"Then I went to see Mr Pinter's *No Man's Land* with Ralph and John, and I couldn't follow a word of it, so when one of the characters yawned I said 'Oh, I do so agree' rather too loudly and people turned and stared at me. Dear John was doing his best, but I haven't been to the theatre since."

The first former pupil of the Academy ever to become its president, Miss Seyler (who should have been Dame Athene years ago) now awaits a massive gathering of great-grandchildren for her ninety-fifth birthday this summer; sadly she has however abandoned her autobiography, having decided that its leading character was "extremely boring". That is not a view shared by many of us.

PUBLISHING

Get it in writing

If you have a burning desire to write a book, it is most unlikely that a publisher will commission you to do so - that is, present you with a contract and pay money down - unless you have already brought one out that has done well. This should be self-evident. Publishers are not in the business of subsidizing writers, unless they have to. The would-be published author, not least novelist (for that, still is how most begin), will have to write his, or more likely her, manuscript, then persuade someone in the book trade to read it.

So far, reasonably straightforward. Let us postulate that your first book, whether fact or fiction, has been published and notice has been taken of it. Your publisher is pleased enough to inquire gently, over lunch, if you have another book in mind. You tell him, in confidence, that you have found letters and papers, previously unknown, which shed new and surprising light on X (a well-known writer, say, or politician, or patriot: someone, anyway, about whom biographies are written).

The publisher nods sagaciously. He could, of course, be wrong but he cannot remember that anyone has tackled X for at least a decade. Given the new material, there could be a reasonable sale for such a biography.

The author calculates that the book will take three years to research and write. (Give or take any other employment he has, he will probably be eighteen months late delivering.) There will be a lot of travelling, and other expenses. The publisher will have little alternative but to offer a contract.

It will not, naturally, be for as much as the author would want or even hope for, but it should be sufficient to stop him seeking a new publisher. If the advance is, say, £10,000, one quarter of that sum might be paid when contracts are exchanged, a second quarter when the book is half-finished and a third quarter when the typescript is triumphantly delivered, with the final payment on publication day.

If the author has a competent agent and an honourable publisher, the contract should stipulate that the payment on delivery will be made... on delivery. Tautologous, you think? There will also be wording to the effect that the manuscript should be in accordance with what was commissioned, probably referring to an outline or synopsis, specimen chapter and discussions with the editor.

In short, the manuscript should be accepted if it is adequately written and pretty much what the publisher expected to receive.

Many, perhaps most, contracts still specify that the delivery payment is made "on

acceptance". This means that the publisher can arbitrarily, without even having to manufacture a reason, reject the manuscript. The author has little redress beyond indignation and self-righteousness.

Editors move from publishing house to publishing house whenever better salaries or, at least on the face of it, more influential jobs beckon, and there is no reason to assume that the new denizens of the old editors' positions will especially want to embrace and wax enthusiastic about the manuscripts commissioned by their predecessors.

The contrary, in fact: commissioning books is as much to do with muscle-flexing, the indulging of individual egos, as anything else.

In the United States it is, I think, unknown for a contract for a commissioned book to state other than that a payment becomes due "on acceptance", however many years the author

'A contract hardly worth the paper it is printed on'

may have been in the writing, however close he may have kept in touch with his editor, however eminent the writer. Dell recently took an author, Julia Whedon, to court for not having repaid them \$14,000 (\$8,000 paid on signature, \$6,000 on delivery of half the manuscript) after they rejected a novel they had commissioned from her as being "unsatisfactory in form, style and contents".

The details are interesting, not least that the editor approved the first half of the book, otherwise payment would not have been implemented at that stage; also, the publisher made no effort by editing to make the book acceptable. The federal district court for the Southern District of New York ruled against the publisher.

This is the second case of its kind in recent months in the US to give judgment against the publisher, and is - rightly - being regarded there and here as significant to authors.

If a publisher in the UK or the US, may casually decline a commissioned manuscript and expect to be repaid any royalties already paid out (whether or not the book is subsequently placed with another publisher), the contract constitutes nothing more than an option agreement. As such, it is hardly worth the paper it is written on and the author has invested time, which is money, under utterly false pretences.

E. J. Craddock

Rock

Thompson Twins
Hammersmith Odeon

The Thompson Twins epitomize the prevailing trend of innocuous entertainment, and sassy frivolity that resounds throughout so much contemporary pop. Yet the Twins, actually a trio comprising Tom Bailey, Alanah Currie and Joe Leeway, have made the most of a limited talent. Commercially, their reliance on strong hooks for strong structures and a marked attention to image make them wildly successful. Their latest record *Into the Gap* soaring to the top of the chart on release and their most ambitious tour to date finds them selling out five nights at Hammersmith.

Thompson Twins music is a cleverly contrived synthesis of sound, one that encompasses the primary colours of major chording, deadpan harmonies and a ceaseless amount of energetic prancing. The Twins, augmented by a four-piece backing group, switched from banging metal objects to tinkering at guitars, congas and guitars, making a virtue of their dilapidated approach.

While they keep on the move,

their inoffensive gestures hardly seem to matter as they make small demand on one's attention span. But when the Twins take themselves seriously, attempting to tackle a ballad or mood number, the cracks appear.

Truthfully, this group are seldom more than the sum of their parts. Bailey is neither blessed with a singing voice nor the attributes of an interesting showman. His accomplices are similarly lacking in the jagged edges that can make the performance of say, The Human League, rise above the occasion. Their over-friendliness and frenetic enthusiasm is comparable to that of large dogs. Cute at first, they soon grow tiresome. For the fans of the Thompson Twins offer a wholehearted rendition of recognizable songs.

When they stood still long enough to accentuate rhythmic qualities, on "In the Name of Love" and the dance-floor spectacular "Love On Your Side", there was a hint of something more substantial. For the rest these three Twins are adept at the sidestepping routines that give pop music its disorienting face.

Max Bell

Concert

Northern Sinfonia/Zinman
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Over the years *Verklarte Nacht* has been yoked to dramatic subjects far removed from its original poetic basis, most recently (and unsuitably) in Sir Kenneth MacMillan's present new ballet at Covent Garden. *Different Drummer*. To hear it played untrammelled, as it were, was therefore a refreshing experience on Friday night, when the Northern Sinfonia of England gave a London concert as part of the orchestra's twenty-fifth anniversary season.

Their guest conductor, David Zinman, ensured that much of Schoenberg's romantic expressionism made its effect in a well-balanced performance.

With a medium-sized body of strings instead of the solo section, a greater linear tension was desirable to fix the work in sharper harmonic perspective, but the important solos for violin, viola and cello were notably well played by the principals concerned as an almost conversational element.

Ida Haendel was more forthright than poetic in Beethoven's Violin Concerto, except for an expressive use of rubato which added a touch of poignancy to the slow movement. As when I last heard her with a different orchestra, she favoured a weighty, almost ceremonious approach to the opening movement, causing a sense of effort to be felt in the orchestra as well, although the security of the soloist's intonation and the clarity of her line were much to be admired.

The orchestra, which has lately embarked on recording the Beethoven symphonies, is becoming adept at relating modest string forces to the overall balance, but I should have liked in the concerto more of the buoyancy and clarity Mr Zinman imparted to one of Mozart's Salzburg symphonies, K 114 in A, at the start of the programme.

Radiating warmth and even an operatic spirit in the wake of Mozart's Italian journeys, it was given a wholly engaging performance.

Noel Goodwin

Theatre

In line for an award

Hinkemann
Upstream

There are passages when this play seems as much of a "limping fellow" (translating the title literally) as its protagonist, but the Floorboards Company's production of Ernst Toller's 1922 Expressionist tragedy must put Giles Croft in line for a fringe director award, even though the year has barely started.

Unperformed here for 50 years, this extraordinary piece used the return of a soldier, maimed and (as we discover) castrated, to develop into a sort of pocket version of Kraus's *Last Days of Mankind*.

Poorly pensioned, virtually unemployable and fearing his wife will desert him, Hinkemann exhibits himself as a fairground musketeer of impotent virility - atrocious irony - who earns his 10 marks by biting the heads off live rats. Maddened by taunts from his wife's seducer, he sees visions of war dead marching from their graves, of a postwar society



John Patrick: impressive

which still devours human flesh.

He buys a monstrously phallic Priapus figure, the age's real god. "Wars and lechery, nothing else holds fashion," said Thersites; Toller shows the connection.

Anchored by John Patrick's Hinkemann, a crumbling giant, half Samson and half Woyzeck, the cast has hardly a weak link

even in tiny roles. Strongly translated by a leading scholar on this period, J. M. Ritchie, this stuff has to be played up to the hilt. Such is their assurance and discipline that they quash derision and compel attention even in bits that recall Konstantine's jejune dramatic effort in *The Scagell*.

Naturalistic cameos succeed equally well: Ben Bazell as a brassily exploitative showman, Jonathan Oliver's mockingly lithe lecher, Eileen Ryan as a randy hit of goods, or the taproom trio pitting communism against Christianity.

Writing the play in prison after a brief incarceration as president of the Bavarian Soviet Republic, Toller mocks panaceas. He turns to despair (he finally committed suicide just before World War II), which is sometimes inarticulate and wordy, as in Hinkemann's final communings with his wife, but Mr Patrick is grimly impressive in his vision of men's eagerness to kill no maim each other and the caprice of fate in pining him for such an appalling burden.

Anthony Masters

One for the Road
Birmingham Rep

Filling the Rep's huge stage, Geoffrey Scott's hideously well observed set gives us a stiff suburban bungalow in what is carefully described as a "Phase Two" development and its heavily overlooked postage-stamp garden. So undistinguished for miles around that two unseen characters spend the whole play failing to find it, this is *The Haven*, Mahler Crescent, with its saccharine LP collection, its easy chairs the colour and texture of a teddy bear, its ghastly persistence to keep up with the Joneses (whom we presently see).

Somewhere, in the middle of it, there is a man going quietly mad. Even his rucksack, precious for memories of the lad he would still like to be, has had the stink of adventures eliminated with mothballs. He has to lock his poems away; soon he will be yelling his hatred of

John Denver and Spanish holidays to the whole censorious estate.

This prison of futility and snobbery among the Tupperware-party classes furnishes Willy Russell with a comedy that lurches between slapstick and desolation, but is haunting and sometimes very amusing for all that. Terry Molloy is an expert broad comedian whose face can slump into unreachably loneliness. As his wife, Sheila Kelley, can rap out nagging demands to confound, yet still into terrified self-doubt before the guests Roger and Jane, who turn our hero's thirtieth birthday dinner party (enough of a crisis in itself) into a social exam as ruthlessly marked as a driving test.

Of course there are a number of playwrights breathing down Mr Russell's neck at this point. Mike Leigh would never have let easy laughs seduce him from the grim business of satirizing the two incorrigible visitors, Mike Scott might have, but would touch us more deeply;

Ayckbourn would have wrung us hard too. Mr Russell's odd mixture of the tenderly perceptive and the coarse-grained is a pity, but there is so much truth here. He can play fast and loose with character in the interest of farce, but the basic statement is impenetrably strong and touching.

He also boldly uses Jane, not only as a tyrannical arbiter of taste but as an ugly scourge of non-conformity: Jane Gallo-way's torquise-lidded eyes narrow as she pressurizes poor Dennis on participation in sporting groups or even the local vigilantes she marshals. Her sleek spouse (David Warwick) is bedding the whole suburb. But what else is there? Clive Perry's production keeps its head among the alarms and excursions surrounding Dennis's one escape attempt, and makes you practically see the spark go out in him as the lights go down.

Anthony Masters

Television

Human exchanges

The film producer drove a taxi to keep up maintenance payments to his former wife, the actor worked once a month behind a bar and twice a year in a recently-axed police serial; even Mamma Sarah, the Hawaiian nightclub singer with a Mai-Tai voice, filled in during the day in a technical publisher's office. *Sunset Boulevard* is a street thronged by whores, pimps and hustlers, and to make sure we did not miss this point Sunset people (BBC 2, Saturday) slipped repeated shots of the glossy streetwalkers between interviews with the greater and lesser lights of Los Angeles.

Among the stars was British actor John Hurt, who quoted Frank Lloyd Wright's description of West Coast society: "They turned America on its side and everything loose fell into California." Hurt added: "You could include the people." For part there was no quintessential glamour in the neon and the palm trees. "It's like going to Basingstoke," he said.

For the director of this two-hour documentary, Czech-born Jana Bokova, it was plainly like going to heaven. When a filmmaker starts cherishing the natural roar of traffic on the soundtrack, and choosing her shots so that cars seem to stream through every frame, you know she believes in Tinseltown.

What distinguishes Bokova's work is her extraordinary gift for presenting people on film. She has an artless cinematic dialect of her own, which is achieved by ignoring many of the niceties of documentary convention. Her own barely audible questions prompt the subjects from behind the camera. The viewer is not worried by titles. Establishing shots, or you where on earth you are, are omitted or tossed in casually. She often makes her subject stand up in front of the camera, where they are nervous, vulnerable and at times defensive. They are then accorded uncustomed dignities - the interview often ends when the subject chooses to stop talking, walks away or breaks eye contact with the camera. The effect is of a direct conversation with the audience, a human

exchange rather than a posed performance. It is evident that the camera runs until the interviewee forgets about it.

She has an affection for third-raters, for over-hopefuls, quietly desperate people, squeezing an adequate portion of happiness out of failure. In *Sunset People* she found plenty of them: an amateur stripper, the wife of a philandering astronaut, artists of every profession, agents for every artist and one man who was no longer in showbusiness. Famous Amos, who has made his name selling chocolate-chip cookies fit for the stars.

In *One Pair of Eyes* (Sunday, BBC 2) John Wells set out to discover why people worked, a philosophical question which did not trouble the regulars of *Sunset Boulevard*'s Raincheck bar. Unhappily, he elected to wrap up his intellectual quest in the device of parodying a pop-science film genre in which very clever chimpanzees are taught the rudiments of human behaviour. An ape got up in nappies and asked to act like a person is a worrying sight.

Celia Brayfield

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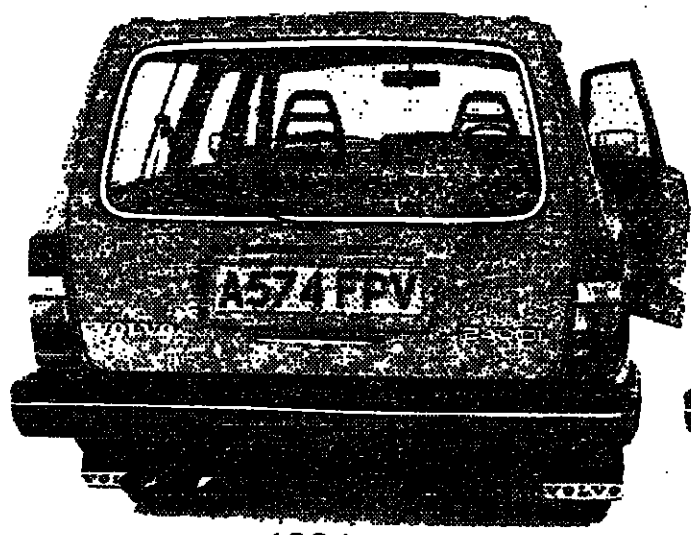
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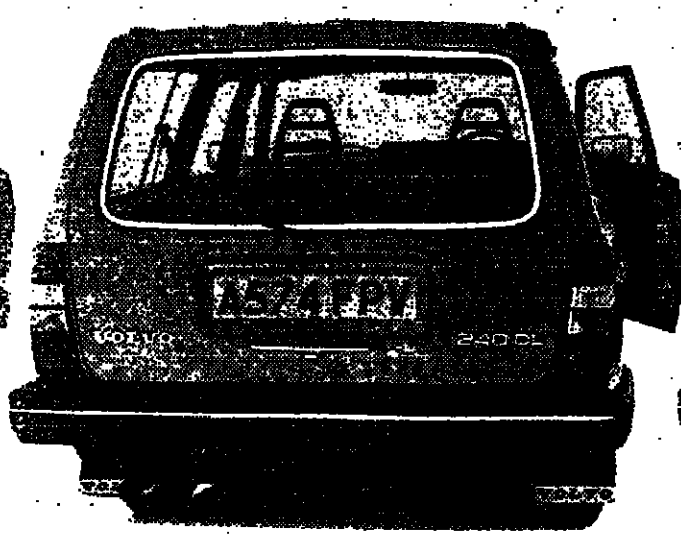
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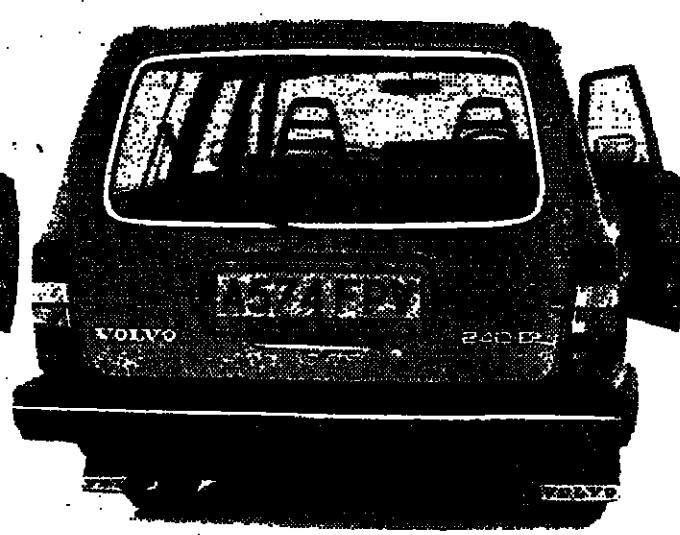
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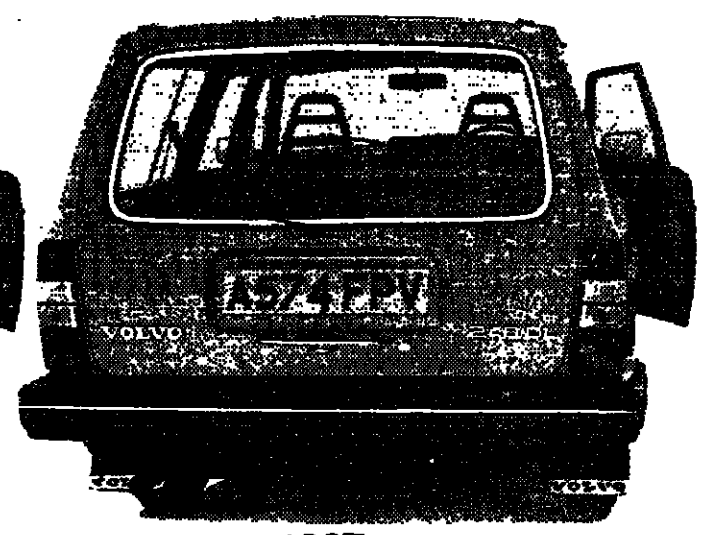
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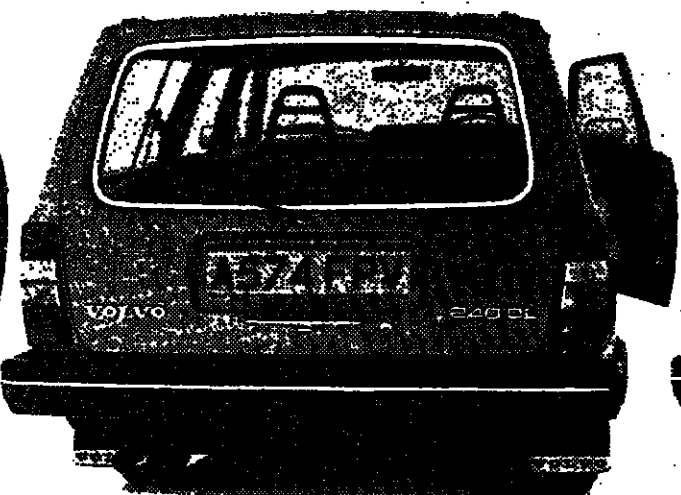
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SPECTRUM

THE KINNOCK STORY

Born in a Welsh terrace to a coal miner and a district nurse, the new Labour leader grew up a socialist.

Peter Gillman traces the roots of an 'heir to Nye Bevan and Lloyd George'.

Growing up down in the valley

On first sight, No 24 Vale Terrace holds little promise as a symbol for the British Labour movement. An anonymous terraced house on the main valley road into Tredegar, it looks towards the gasworks on one side and a scarred green hillside on the other. Yet it is already endowed with a certain mythic renown, for it was here that Neil Kinnock spent the first five years of his life.

Inside, No 24 has greater potency. The owner, Mr Evan White, will show you the steep stairs Neil Kinnock climbed to reach his unheated bedroom with the metal latch on its door. Mr White has replaced the Kinnocks' old gas boiler with an Ascot water-heater, and their black-lead grate with a tiled hearth. But, although you can now reach the chilly lavatory from inside, there is still no bathroom at all. Mr White, who bought the house when the Kinnocks as tenants, charged them 12s 6d a week. He remembers Neil as a toddler, and lowers his hand almost to his knee to show how small he was.

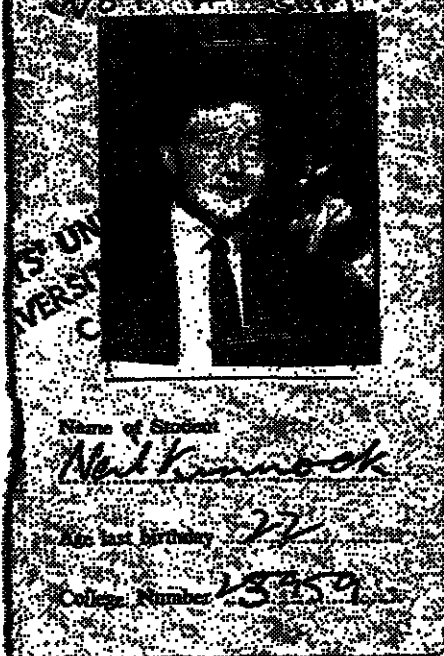
If Neil Kinnock ever becomes prime minister, Mr White's house will become as well-known as a certain grocer's shop in Grantham. But it is significant even now for what it tells of Kinnock's origins and his ascent to power. Without doubt, Kinnock's family circumstances qualify him as what Michael Foot terms "absolutely genuine working class" a factor of much appeal to the political romantic in Foot, during his tireless sponsorship of Kinnock's career.

But No 24, Vale Terrace, also says much about the distance Kinnock has had to climb. He is after all the first "genuine working-class" leader of the Labour Party since Ramsay MacDonald (Jim Callaghan, raised in straitened circumstances by his widowed mother, is the nearest contender). To reach that height, Kinnock required a certain brass determination, coupled with a fierce competitiveness and a hatred of being thwarted, that have left enemies in their wake. But Kinnock's background also fired the visible sense of compassion that the polls reveal to be one of his political strengths.

Gordon and Mary Kinnock moved to Vale Terrace in 1943, when Neil, their only child, was 12 months old. He had been born in a single rented room a quarter-mile away. In Vale Terrace, his bedroom overlooked the Ty Trist colliery (now closed and razed).

Kinnock's father worked at the Markham colliery five miles away, until forced to leave the mines through dermatitis and become a labourer at the Ebbw Vale steel works. Although Kinnock's mother complained that her husband lacked ambition, he was a phlegmatic man who worked immensely hard. "He worked like an animal", Kinnock recalls: "he worshipped work and was terrified of not having a pound in his pocket". Kinnock also remembers his mother bandaging his hands each morning before work: "All his fingers used to be split, half-inch gashes so that he couldn't hold a cigarette."

As a district nurse, Kinnock's mother was a respected figure around Tredegar. Kinnock sometimes accompanied her on her rounds, acquiring further knowledge of the industrial diseases that afflicted the mining valleys. She was a devout Christian - chapel not church - and a dedicated socialist.



Neil Kinnock as a young boy, looking towards the camera.

But she also had a sense of propriety that prevented her from joining the Labour Party until she retired. She was naturally proud of her son, and made sure he was smartly dressed when he attended the local primary and junior schools. (The habit has stuck: unlike his predecessor as Opposition leader, Kinnock is meticulous about cleaning his shoes, usually wears a tie, and has invested some of his new salary in a coat for the Cenotaph ceremony.)

At 11, Kinnock won a local authority scholarship to the Lewis School at Pengam, which creamed the best pupils from 20 miles around. But Kinnock rebelled against its elitist ambience, remained resolutely in the B stream, and was punished for bad behaviour and poor work.

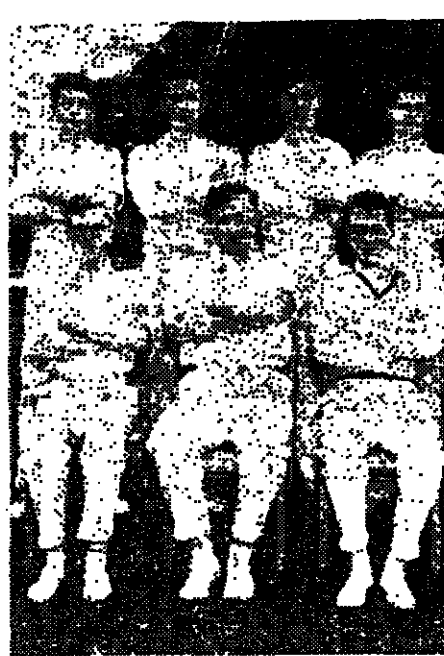
By then the Kinnocks were living in a council prefab in the Nantybwh district of Tredegar. The area was known popularly as Mountainair, thus providing the first oblique link with politics in Kinnock's life, for it was named after a pub used by Tredegar's MP, Nye Bevan.

Kinnock's earliest political memory is of his father taking him to hear Bevan at the age of eight. Bevan impersonated the Tory cabinet and his version of Churchill "brought the house down". Soon afterwards Kinnock met Bevan on a Whitsun Sunday school parade and Bevan shook all the children by the hand.

Kinnock does not claim that his political awakening stemmed from those encounters. That came during the Suez invasion, when Kinnock was 14, and Bevan delivered a thunderous speech in Tredegar. Kinnock says: "I went as a deliberate political act, listened to what he said, agreed with every word of it, and was enthralled with the way it was delivered." He joined the Labour Party soon afterwards.

At school, Kinnock continued to languish. He sent for forms to join the Army or police but his parents tore them up. As a regular chapel-goer until 17, he also contemplated becoming a priest. He was finally spurred into hard work by seeing a former school-friend working as a gravedigger. He did well enough at A level to progress to University College, Cardiff, in 1961.

Cardiff is a phase in Kinnock's life which even now makes passions run high. Having escaped from Pengam,



The early years: clockwise from top left: happy as a sandboy with his cousin Margaret in 1946; with Glenys on their wedding day; the Kinnocks at a party in 1966 to celebrate the Callaghan victory; at school aged eight (the boy in the centre) when he first met Nye Bevan; in the school cricket team (centre) in 1958; and Kinnock's university card on which he wrote of himself: "Wot a bun."

Even today, Miss Esher, a lecturer and member of the SDP, retains strong feelings about the incident. She admits she had political aspirations of her own and describes Kinnock's ambitions as "ruthless, blatant, clearly stated and manipulated". Kinnock laughs the incident off, and says his resignation freed him to spend the summer watching cricket.

There is further controversy over the nature of Kinnock's ambitions when he left Cardiff, with a teaching certificate to add to his degree, in 1966. Even some of his friends believe that he plotted a path that led inexorably to his selection at the rock-solid Labour constituency of Bedwellty (now Islwyn) in 1969.

By that scenario, Kinnock curried favour with Jim Callaghan by campaigning for him in Cardiff in 1966, built a local political base by working as a WEA tutor in the valleys, and moved into Bedwellty to be on hand

the working-class boy from Tredegar was at his most brash and assertive. A friend from those days, Mr Jeff Cocks, says of Kinnock: "He had mixed popularity as a student - and you were either for or against him." Some he clashed with have still not forgiven him.

Kinnock's academic record - he studied politics and industrial relations - was mixed. One of his history tutors, Professor Ursula Henriques, who admits she "never liked" Kinnock, says that he could "always write ten pages about nothing but did not find it easy to write two pages about anything".

It was on student politics that Kinnock made his mark. He was chairman of the socialist society and president of the students' union. He was prominent in Anti-Apartheid and CND, and was briefly secretary of the Welsh branch of the Committee of 100, CND's more militant offshoot.

But he also inspired some powerful antagonisms. A profile in the students' newspaper, *Broadsheet*, records that he was "an exhibitionist and extrovert to the Nth degree... his main fault is intolerance which reaches the point of rudeness on occasions". The most notorious instance came at a college reception, when the principal's wife made a racist remark. There is some dispute over precisely which epithet Kinnock directed at her, but his favourite was enshrined in his nickname, bowdlerized in *Broadsheet*: "Little Puckoff".

Cardiff also saw the formation of the most important alliance of Kinnock's career, excepting not even Michael Foot. Glenys Parry arrived in Cardiff from Anglesey in 1963, the daughter of a signaller who was active in the Labour Party and NUR. She met Kinnock when he was handing out socialist society leaflets and they soon became, in her words, "really good mates". With her tactical skills allied to Kinnock's oratory and drive, they forged a formidable political partnership which has continued to this day.

Ironically it was that partnership which drew Kinnock into the most explosive episode of his university career. It was one of those all-consuming student affairs which time has rendered utterly banal; it nonetheless shows Kinnock's distaste of defeat. It concerned Cardiff's delegation to the annual conference of the National Union of Students: he and Glenys - head of the relevant sub-committee - were opposed to a would-be delegate named Margot Esher.

But the full students council ruled against them, and they both resigned. Afterwards, Kinnock castigated the students as "less intelligent than usual this year with a few exceptions" - adding that "student politics are the dirtiest and least meaningful of all".



The early years: clockwise from top left: happy as a sandboy with his cousin Margaret in 1946; with Glenys on their wedding day; the Kinnocks at a party in 1966 to celebrate the Callaghan victory; at school aged eight (the boy in the centre) when he first met Nye Bevan; in the school cricket team (centre) in 1958; and Kinnock's university card on which he wrote of himself: "Wot a bun."

then, Kinnock had been Bedwellty's MP for two years.

In fact, Bedwellty fell into Kinnock's hands by the combination of hard work and good fortune that have benefited him at crucial junctures in his career. He and Glenys moved into the constituency after they were married in 1967 because it was convenient for both their jobs: Glenys was a remedial teacher near Pontypool. They found the local party, long dominated by the miners' union, virtually moribund. They and a group of friends from among Kinnock's WEA pupils shook it from its torpor by proposing motions on such heady issues as Rhodesia and Vietnam. Then, in February 1969, the MP, Sir Harold Finch, announced without warning that he intended to retire.

It seemed that the seat must remain in the gift of the NUM. But Kinnock and his group campaigned assiduously among the rival unions, and on election night, a blazing speech brought Kinnock level with the miners' candidate at 75 votes each. On the floor of the hall, Kinnock's camp wanted to postpone the run-off but Glenys boldly advised: "Let's see it through". After further speeches, Kinnock won by two votes.

That night Kinnock telephoned his parents to announce: "Westminster next stop". With a 17,000 majority, that seemed a safe assumption, but his father, cautious as ever, warned: "Don't count on it". Greater enthusiasm was shown by another caller: Michael Foot.

Their friendship had begun several years before, when the Kinnocks joined Foot and Jill Craigie, his wife, on their celebrated walks around Tredegar. Fellow walker Alan Fox recalls how Kinnock's competitiveness emerged even in those pastoral surroundings. Kinnock organized wayside soccer matches for the children, "but was determined to score the goals himself".

Fox also observed the strong relationship which was soon established between Foot and Kinnock. "They spent a long time talking to each other", Fox says. "There was a strong rapport, a father-son thing. A great warmth developed from Michael to Neil. He took him on as an adopted son, almost."

So when Foot telephoned Kinnock, it was to offer his congratulations on the first step on what he hoped would be an eminent political career. Soon afterwards, Foot confided to Fox that he saw in Kinnock a possible cabinet minister and, "with luck", leader.

Foot says now: "I've always thought that - and Jill thought it even more strongly than me". Jill Craigie says that the time of their walks, he had, she says, "the spark". She thought he was like Lloyd George: "the radical side of Lloyd George, with a bit of Nye".

TOMORROW: Reaching for the top

moreover... Miles Kington

The colour question in Ulster

George Mikes once wrote that you can learn more about a place by spending a week there than by living there for three years, a saying which all journalists should have engraved on their luggage. His example was about New York. He was the only person in the city, he wrote, who had noticed that you could fly a jet plane into Kennedy Airport using one hand, but that it took two hands to open a New York hotel bedroom door. (I've checked this: he's right.)

I am similarly emboldened after my weekend in Northern Ireland to say that life there is geared to an attempt to rise above the decor. I am sorry to add to their troubles, but it seems to me that the Northern Irish have no colour sense, nor indeed much knack for interior and exterior decor. When they feel tempted to brighten up a place, they usually seem to hammer on strips of plywood veneer or add slabs of colour: the trouble is that the colours are always harsh and bright, or dull and despondent. It's hard to make dark maroon look threatening, but they manage it somehow.

I think this may be a Celtic thing. The Welsh may go on about their wonderful musical talent, but nobody has ever complimented them on their visual sense: if you want to enjoy looking at Wales, you look at the landscape, not at what the Welsh have done to it. But Northern Ireland puts me even more in mind of Scotland, where they seem to have the same gift for adding the wrong colours, so that a bleak bar can look even bleaker after being brightened up.

They are at present brightening up the Northern Counties Hotel in Portrush, a wonderful old palace of a place which used to be the pride of the railways in County Antrim as the Slieve Donard Hotel at Newcastle was in County Down. There is still a vast ballroom. There is an indoor swimming pool on the first floor. There is any amount of archways and oak wood and interior glass, and above in lounge fireplace there is an enormous statue, for no reason at all, of a French lady representing Science.

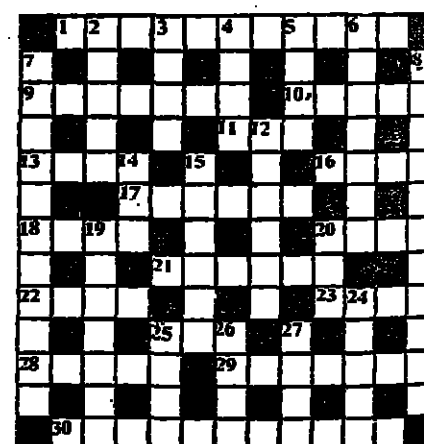
All splendid stuff. What is not so splendid is, for instance, the door tacked on the entrance which is so hard to get through with luggage that George Mikes would need three hands. The wood panelling is decorated throughout with little notices in bright orange, hideous day-glo rectangles advertising afternoon tea and the like.

But there is third stage of observation beyond which things start to get better again, on what can only be called the human level.

When the friendly young assistant manager heard that we would be coming back from our Coleraine concert hotel after the dining room closed, he made inquiries about food and announced proudly that the chef would stay behind just to cook for us.

If I wasn't already won over already, I was by the hand-written notice attached to the book-case in the lounge. It read simply: "Please feel free to finish any of these books at home. It would be much appreciated if you left one of your own instead on the shelves." Hands up anyone who has seen something like that recently on the mainland. I certainly haven't.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 283)



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Conjuror's | 2 Two-footed animal |
| 3 Put in enclosure (7) | 4 Assistant (4) |
| 5 Card sets game (5) | 6 Distinctive air (4) |
| 7 Epoch (3) | 8 Jumble (7) |
| 9 Composition | 10 Dismiss (11) |
| 11 Bind up (4) | 12 Servomechanics |
| 13 Herod dancing girl | 13 science (11) |
| 14 Pulpy mass (4) | 14 Put to rights (6) |
| 15 Signify (4) | 15 Fire residue (3) |
| 16 Frozen wasteland | 16 Obscure (6) |
| 17 Road (6) | 17 Food spreader (7) |
| 18 Tapered fruit (4) | 18 Route plan (3) |
| 19 Novel story (4) | 19 Flexible (5) |
| 20 Manuscripts (3) | 20 Distribute (4) |
| 21 Reason (5) | 21 Urge on (4) |
| 22 Mouldable (7) | 22 Mouth frame (4) |
| 23 Uninvited guest | |

(11) Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE KEW

Work to repair the air conditioning system is continuing, but the Public Record Office regrets that it is still unable to provide a service of records at Kew.

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MONDAY PAGE

The first lady for president?

The next vice-president of the United States could be a woman. Bailey Morris reports on the strongest contender for the ticket

This year, 64 years after American women won the right to vote, New York's venerable Ninth Congressional District may finally produce the first US woman vice-president.

Veteran political pollsters agree that the "impossible dream" of the early US suffragettes is a strong possibility in 1984 when the voting power of women could be the deciding factor in a close race for the presidency.

Mr George Gallup conducted a nationwide poll late last year which revealed that a surprisingly high proportion of US voters would be more likely to vote Democratic if a woman was on the ticket. Later David Garth, a respected political consultant, concluded from his own polling that a Democrat would have to take the west to win the election. One way the west could be won was with a woman on the ticket, the poll results showed.

The mere suggestion that this could happen has already had a dramatic political impact. President Reagan, alarmed by the growing "gender gap" among voters, recently interrupted a busy speaking schedule to make a last-minute appearance at a political fundraiser to celebrate the birthday of suffragette Susan B. Anthony.

Mr Reagan made a strong pitch on behalf of Republicans, saying it was quite likely they would put a woman on the ticket in 1988 even though he planned to stay the course with Vice-President Bush in 1984.

Democrats have been even more direct in their appeal to women who will comprise for the first time 50 per cent of the delegates at their party's presidential nominating convention in July.

Mr Walter Mondale, a former vice-president, leads a list of seven presidential candidates who have said they would consider a woman as a running mate. The Rev Jesse Jackson has said unequivocally he would choose a woman to run beside him.

The issue of a woman national candidate is raised often in the increasingly florid rhetoric of the Democratic primaries. It is fanned and kept alive by a US media ever hungry for a new angle on an old political story. Inevitably, it leads to list-making.

"Will this Queen's housewife read the bold front-page headline in a New York newspaper?"

It was a whimsical reference to Mrs Geraldine Ferraro, a three-term US congresswoman who has emerged as the front-runner in a field of seven top Democratic women mentioned for the second spot on the Party's ticket, just a "heart-beat away from the presidency" as Americans are wont to say.

Others frequently mentioned are Mayor Diane Feinstein of San Francisco, Governor Martha Lane Collins of Kentucky, Representative Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, Representative Patricia



Geraldine Ferraro: front-runner for the post, "a heart-beat away from the presidency"

Schroder of Colorado. Representative Linda Boggs of Louisiana, and Lt-Governor Martha Griffiths of Michigan.

Each one, however, is burdened by significant political liabilities. Both Mikulski and Schroder are thought to be too closely identified with feminist issues; Mrs Boggs is not pro-choice on the issue of abortion; Diane Feinstein is Jewish and has championed homosexual rights and other liberal causes in San Francisco; Governor Collins has been in office less than a year; and Lt-Governor Griffiths, at age 71, is considered too old.

Of them all, only Mrs Ferraro is considered likely to appeal to a cross-section of voters, particularly women voters who could outnumber men by a wide margin at the polls. By November, there will be an estimated eight million more women than men among the electorate.

At 48, this fine-boned woman from Queens is the only woman in congress who has penetrated the closely-guarded male power structure of the US House of Representatives.

She has succeeded by observing certain golden rules: paying dues by shouldering some of the Party's less desirable jobs, keeping her mouth shut publicly, learning to dispense favours effectively, and finally, attracting the notice and support of the party leadership.

Mrs Ferraro, who favours traditional black dresses and a double strand of false pearls, eventually reaped the rewards. She ran for and won the position of secretary of the Democratic caucus, a largely ceremonial post that led to an influential position as a member of the party policy and steering committee. Next came an important assignment on the house budget committee and this year, one of the Party's key jobs as chairman of the platform committee for the 1984 Democratic convention.

It is more than a little significant that she has achieved all this with the strong backing of Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, the powerful Speaker of the House.

"Tip is a person I confide in a lot. The men in my district are just like him", said Mrs Ferraro.

She referred to the conservative, largely blue-collar district of one-family and two-family houses popularized as "Archie Bunker country" in the TV series, *All in the Family*.

It is also Geraldine Ferraro country, an area of ethnic neighbourhoods and strong prejudices similar to the Boston Irish political environment which spawned "Tip" O'Neill.

Mrs Ferraro is much more liberal than her district but the majority of voters in New York's Ninth love her none the less because she is one of them. A devout Roman Catholic of Italian descent, she worked her way through college and law school with the help of her widowed mother who went back to work in New York's garment district as a crocheter beader when her husband died suddenly at 46.

Despite her feminist views, Mrs Ferraro was re-elected with 58 per cent of the vote in the same year her district supported President Reagan with 57 per cent of the vote.

"Gerri has made her commitment to work inside the system and that makes her one of those unusual women who is one of the guys. She's very attractive, very feminine and very tough," said Mr Barney Frank, a house colleague and fellow Democrat from Massachusetts.

Even so, Mrs Ferraro once silenced the normally buzzing floor of the House with an impassioned recital for a pro-choice amendment on abortion which she admits, as a Catholic, has been the toughest issue for her.

"I ask you to be personal about this vote. I ask you if your wife or daughter were raped and became pregnant would you not give her the right to make her own decision," she asked the overwhelmingly male house which supported her position.

Her skill at walking a political tightrope led party leaders to appoint her as the perfect running mate for the Democratic front-runner Walter Mondale, if a woman is indeed selected. Furthermore, in the polyglot world of American politics, she represents the right mix. "Gerri is north-east corridor to his mid-West, Italian to his Anglo, Catholic to his Protestant," said a party veteran.

In short, she represents the ethnic, upwardly mobile middle-class voters who have been crossing over to the Republican side in recent years.

PENNY PERRICK

City life - for adults only



Where have all the children gone? Left the cities, every one, which seems a shame. In London, inner-city primary schools are merging, or sometimes even closing, for lack of

custom. In Paris, 123,000 people left the city for the suburbs and provinces during the last seven years. Nearly all of them were families with children with the result that Paris itself, according to recent statistics, is becoming more and more a city of bachelors and divorcees, widows and widowers.

In Washington, anti-child feeling runs high. Residents mobilize to prevent a new high school being built in their neighbourhood. People with children are banned from some apartment buildings and there is a growing tendency for restaurants to charge extra for children, as an insurance against the possible mayhem they might cause. No wonder the children are moving out; the cities are making it clear that they prefer adults only.

This is dreadful news, not least for the adults who remain in town. Parks, zoos and museums are all dreary places if there are no children in them, their curiosity as sharp as a private eye's. Sad for children, too, to be deprived of the bright lights; children have such fun on the town, it seems odd to banish them to the suburbs and a dozier way of life better suited to a retired colonel than a rowdy five-year-old.

Yet the consensus is that city life is bad for children: the conventional picture of the city child is of a smudgy, bedraggled mite standing in the middle of Spaghetti Junction getting lead poisoning. But I doubt whether the little townie gets less fresh air and exercise than the suburban child, who has to be toted everywhere by car, or the country child who, in theory, apple-cheeked and bonny, is, in practice, pallid and sedentary, spending hours in front of the television because he can find nothing to do outdoors.

I brought up two children in the inner city and would do the same again given half a chance. Everything we wanted was on our doorstep, including a wonderful primary school where 57 varieties of children broke through the barriers of language and custom in ways that would bring tears of joy to any Commissioner for Race Equality. Had we lived in the country, my children would have been bussed to school and back, with no opportunity to begin those friendships that stem from loitering and messing about together after school.

In the suburbs, my life would have revolved in high anxiety around the car pool - "If it's

Wednesday, it must be Marcia's turn". High on my list of parent-martyrs are those who have to act as round-the-clock chauffeurs to their little ones, driving grimly from Brownies to ballet class; from clannet lesson to football practice.

Vance Packard, that astute monitor of human behaviour, said recently that today's parents are brave people because bringing up children "is no longer regarded as part of the natural flow of life, but is an apprehensive act, an act of courage". So please salute two friends of mine who bring up their little boys on the top floor of a converted house in South Kensington. They have refused to move out to more wholesome Kingston or Ewell, for where in such places would you find huge rooms with high ceilings, grocers that are open all day Sunday and a garden square that's the hub of neighbourhood life? So their sons have learnt to scamper up and down the eight flights of communal stairs at an early age, which is probably just as good for them as peddling a tricycle around a suburban housing estate.

Town children improve the landscape no end as they skitter along the pavement, poised and chatty beyond their years. Before any more of them leave, I think someone should slap a preservation order on the entire child population of cities to keep it from being moved out of town.

*** Who do you suppose wrote this? "Granted knows of any certificates granted for knowing where to buy a snakeskin watch strap, or which plastic attachment will join his hosepipe to his sprinkler? How many gold medals are there for removing the stain from his favourite tie in time for the board meeting, or making sure his sandwich is of brown bread not white?"

It sounds like somebody's down-trodden wife but it's somebody's distressed secretary. She writes about her rotten life in *Signature* magazine, saddening reading because here are problems with no solution. If one chief executive drives her beyond endurance by making her buy his wife's birthday present, the only thing she can do is look for another boss, with no guarantee that the new employer won't require her to send out all his personal Christmas cards.

In the last resort, if the secretary is forced to call it a day, she, like the "home wife" should be recompensed for the years of service so unstintingly given. For, if Bridget Walker, the executive secretary who wrote the *Signature* article, is to be believed, without women like her chief executives would all be as hapless and hopeless as born kittens.



Contenders Diane Feinstein, left, and Patricia Schroder

TALKBACK Naturally better

From Margaret Green, Rhyl, nr. Haverfordwest

It is not surprising that doctors recommended goats' milk for children before the war (Friday Page, February 24). Goats do not contract TB or brucellosis - except for very rare cases of avian TB, and a variety of brucellosis endemic only in Malta. All modern health measures have achieved it to bring cows' milk up to a standard natural to goats' milk. However, part of the price for modern production of cows' milk has been the use of potentially harmful chemicals.

Despite regulations, minute traces of these find their way through in the milk.

Goat products are still recommended by doctors for young children allergic to cow products. Many antibiotics are recognized allergens, and the absence of antibiotics in goats' milk may have something to do with it.

Those who sell goats' milk, like those who sell unpasteurized cows' milk are careful of hygiene and unafraid of prosecution. It is, after all, not in the nature of milk that it requires pasteurization. Since when has breast milk needed it?

Only the caution on vitamin supplements is really warranted in Dr Stutterford's article. Goats' milk does not contain folic acid. Cereals, however, it is present in cereals, yeast, leafy green vegetables and liver, that should not raise an insuperable problem in anyone's diet.

Teetotal tonic

From Professor Michael D Warren, Canterbury, Kent

As one with a non-drinking problem, I was delighted to read Maggie Drummond's contribution (Friday Page, February 24). I believe that there is a sizable minority of people who find even small quantities of alcohol make them feel below par, depressed or even ill. One such seems to have been Cassio, who said, (*Ohello*, Act II, Scene 3): "I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking; I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment." I am told that some barmen will serve, for a tip or the full price, tonic water only, if given the appropriate signal by the non-drinker when his companions order a round.

Hazards behind the fertility headlines

Fertility drug successes, and particularly sensational ones, make headlines. What never does, however, is the experience of those who receive the same treatment without success.

I have been taking fertility drugs for more than two years, first in the form of tablets (clomiphene) with an injection boost (HCG); more recently in the form of the much more powerful HMG, or Pergonal, administered by injections only.

Clomiphene coaxes the pituitary to raise hormone levels to persuade ovaries to produce follicles, the HCG injection (obtained from the urine of pregnant women) releasing the ovum. About 80 per cent of women ovulate with clomiphene, and 40 per cent subsequently conceive. Pergonal, which comes from the urine of post-menopausal women, acts directly on the ovaries to raise oestrogen levels, and again it is used in conjunction with HCG. It is very expensive, and only used when other methods have failed. It also carries with it a risk of multiple births.

Hospital notes I received, and the attitude of my consultant, when I started taking Pergonal, suggested I was a "rather special patient", that the treatment was rather stressful; and that I should feel free to ring at any time to query any misunderstanding or discomfort I experienced. Unfortunately not everyone is so sympathetic.

The treatment itself, which runs in monthly cycles, involves three visits to the doctor in a week, normally on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, followed by a fourth visit the following Tuesday. In between the third and fourth visit there are three days when the patient has to collect all urine passed, and queue in a post office to dispatch the urine samples for testing.

It all plays havoc with your job and your social life. Repeated late mornings at work have to be made up, however good-willed your colleagues are in covering for you. One unsympathetic manager could not understand why a doctor's appointment could not be rearranged to suit work. Time rearranged to suit work. Time rearranged to suit work. Time rearranged to suit work.

FIRST PERSON

ility treatment is something else. As far as social life is concerned, I have had to take urine samples at candlelit supper parties, at Henry Wood Promenade concerts, and even on day trips to France. Almost leaving a carrier bag full of samples in a taxi once brought me to a state of near panic.

All this, I know, is little to suffer compared with people who are actually ill. At least I am 100 per cent physically fit - I feel I need to be to stand the rigours of the treatment! One's defences get lowered, and a prickly doctor's receptionist almost reduced me to tears by telling me that I could only make one appointment at a time. Quite often I see three different doctors in a week - not to mention a few others when I have had to be away at the time of a vital injection. Each time the whole business has to be explained all over again from square one.

What all this does to your love life is beyond belief

The patient is expected to be intelligent and articulate - but not too much so. Some doctors can't stand "know-it-all" patients, and I was given pretty short shrift by one doctor when I had the temerity to suggest the procedure other doctors usually followed in mixing my injections.

At the other extreme there is the doctor who demands that his patient be knowledgeable. I had to take the blame when one doctor gave me an insufficient dose of Pergonal, even after he had read the instructions for himself. "If you have to see me again, make a double appointment," he said, looking at his watch, while the people in the waiting room grew steadily more impatient. Somehow it seemed to be my fault he had to start all over again.

There have been various dramas over files. The last time I visited the hospital, I waited almost an hour while staff searched high and low for my file. I had to remind them that I had been handed my file on my

previous visit (despite the instruction on the cover: "Do not hand to patient") and asked to take it to another doctor in another part of the hospital.

Worse still was the letter from the hospital telling me that as I had failed to attend an appointment I had already changed (they had failed to amend their records), this would mean a four-month delay.

Not only hospital records, but also doctors' notes have gone astray. I suppose for there to be two patients registered with the same name, and even living in the same road, is not unheard of in a practice. But for me it seemed like just one more factor to test my patience when my notes were confused with another patient's. I had visions of some poor old lady coming to get relief for her arthritis, and having fertility treatment recorded on her notes.

What all this does to your love life is, at first, beyond belief. After the number of injections you have received in your buttocks, making love is not the easiest of exercises. Now we see the funny side. We have a quiet laugh as we write in our diaries precisely when it is that we have to make love, and think of the doctors who are monitoring our progress: "Big Doctor is watching you!"

Confidentiality is the one thing I would have thought we would be entitled to, but hospital switchboards, sadly, are not always the most tactful, and often need spelt out to them that the doctor you wish to speak to is in gynaecology - not easy to disguise when you ring from an open plan office. Wouldn't a ward or department number be sufficient?

Most worrying of all was the arrival of a package marked "urgent medical supplies" which had to be delivered to neighbours while I was away. The recycled envelope still bore quite clearly its previous label: "Gynaecology Department". The neighbours would have made their own speculation before dispatching their 10-year-old son with the parcel. Confidentiality? Privacy? I might as well sign this article with my own name.

Anne Whitehouse



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PARIS DIARY

by Frank Johnson

A politician's open secret

At Boston, getting into the aircraft for Paris on the morning of the New Hampshire result, the last word available on US soil about Mr Gary Hart was a syndicated columnist revealing that, in his youth, Mr Hart had told some friends that he was going to be president and others that he wanted to live in Scotland and write novels.

Getting out of the aircraft in Paris six and a half hours later, the first available word about Mr Hart on French soil was the Washington correspondent in that morning's *Figaro* explaining that, in his youth, Mr Hart had told some friends that he was going to be president and others that he wanted to live in Ireland "on *caravan des romans*".

Give or take the fact that, somewhere across the Atlantic, one Celtic nation got replaced by another, the news was travelling fast. During a period of uncertainty — such as, say, a speech by Mr Hart — one democracy's professional on servers tend to send home what the other's are saying.

"Gary Hart has always been a secret man," said *Figaro's* man, resolving the problem of the lack of information. This secrecy seems extremely unlikely. Americans have many qualities, but a sense of enigmatic inner mystery is surely not one of them. But according to the paper, Mr Hart "hides under an anti-conformist and dilettante exterior, a frenzied or fanatical (forced) ambition." So the secret man, it seemed, had failed to keep this most terrible of all secrets from the *Figaro*.

The Parisian press was silent on the reaction of the makers of French foreign policy towards the turn of events in New Hampshire. But so far as one can gather, the word from the Quai d'Orsay and the Elysee is that Mr Hart could be a nuisance. Mr Mondale had been expected to lose to Mr Reagan. Mr Reagan they know. On the other hand, Mr Hart's heaving rhetoric could hide anything. Only in this sense is he really a "secret man".

The French, incidentally, have the answer to why US presidential candidates speak in that terrible way, confusing eloquence with windbagery. The traveller lately returned from New Hampshire, a French observer offered a piece entitled "Why American writers and orators are often *boursouflés*" (puffed up/having an inflated style). "The cause can be indicated without much difficulty," the writer confidently announced. "In democratic societies each citizen is habitually occupied in contemplating a very small object, which is himself when he has been drawn out of his own sphere, therefore, he always expects that some amazing object will be offered to his attention."

So, the writer went on, the authors and the orators can only attract the attention of the multitude by expanding things "beyond all bounds" and "by abandoning the merely great to reach the gigantic".

The passage was to be found in Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, written in the 1830s and surely one of the greatest unread, much quoted books. It also contains a chapter chillingly entitled: "Why so many ambitious men and so little lofty ambition are to be found in the United States." The book is not at all unsympathetic to the United States, just wise. So it is not always true when Americans complain that the French do not understand them.

I was away in the United States for what the sports writers of my childhood used to call "England's Night of Soccer Shame" when we lost. As those journalists also used to put it, fear stalked the Metro on Saturdays. A crowd of Englishmen in football scarves got on. They were rugby followers. Paris was in no danger, but the travelling Parisians, staring ahead in terror, were not to know that. When the Mayor, M Jacques Chirac, drafted in hundreds of extra police for that evening's rugby international, he could not have cared less about the subtleties of the English social system which so arranges things that rugby is the game where people do horrible things to one another on the field. He was taking no chances.

In my local café it was difficult to say what it was on that terrible night which outraged the clientele the most. But it was widely agreed that the singing of "God Save The Queen" on the Metro in such circumstances was particularly offensive. I advanced the defence that neither God, nor the Queen, nor the English football team had any choice in the matter of their supporters. This was accepted. But M Chirac's precautions against all English crowds was defended. We can now expect extra police when the British arrive for the next major Impressionist exhibition.

BARRY FANTONI



It's encouraging to know we still have conventional weapons

Peter Hennessy on the origins of Mrs Thatcher's dislike of the Civil Service

From woodshed to watershed

Last week the Prime Minister received a letter from a group of senior civil servants in the Cabinet Office, the engine-room of British central government. It expressed "the fears and the regret" of members of the office's branch of the First Division Association, the top civil servants' union which includes permanent secretaries among its number, at "recent developments in connexion with GCHQ".

The officials said they had never found that loyalty to union conflicted with loyalty to the state. Their first loyalty had been and would remain to the government of the day. Their next paragraph encapsulated the accumulated experience of many in the upper reaches of the Civil Service after nearly five years of working for Mrs Thatcher.

"As a corollary to this loyalty we are, in our view, entitled to expect that the Government would demonstrate loyalty and respect towards its employees. Trust and loyalty cannot be demanded by one side or the other; they can only be earned by the demonstration of trust and loyalty in return." Those are strong words from men and women who live by understatement and nuance.

There are supporters of the Prime Minister who exult when such pieces of evidence emerge from inside the private government. It shows, they argue, that Mrs Thatcher is getting somewhere in taking on one of the great vested interests in the land which, ever since Gladstone and Lowe established the higher Civil Service in the 1870s, has enjoyed too much power and contributed a great deal to the anti-enterprise ethos which lay behind the nation's decline.

There are others, quite apart from public servants in the Thatcher firing line, who find the almost insinuating conflict between the Prime Minister and her direct labour force as disquieting as it is undesirable. The origins of this sourness, which reached a new stage last week with the forced deunionization of GCHQ, the half-day union stoppage, the TUC withdrawal from NEDC and the setting up of a Solidarity-style "underground" union at Cheltenham, go back to the early 1960s when Mrs Thatcher was appointed a junior minister at the Ministry of Pensions. During her tenure, she was to serve under three political chiefs.

Mrs Thatcher noticed that senior officials played their changing political masters like a Stradivarius. Nothing in her experience as research chemist, tax lawyer and housewife had prepared her for the shock of seeing Britain's most accomplished Machiavellis in action.

In her television interview with Sir Laurens van der Post last year, she recalled the advice served up by the Ministry of Pensions: "I saw it vary from minister to minister. I used to sit there sometimes and say 'That's not what you said to the last minister. You are giving him totally different advice. Why?' And gradually they said, 'Well, the last one wouldn't have said that and we said, 'Well, you're now trying it on with the present one'." Her subsequent experience as a Cabinet minister at the Department of Education and Science, 1970-74, an irredeemably wet ministry by her lights, did nothing to brighten her dim view of Whitehall's permanent politicians.

One official familiar with her Downing Street style puts much



Peter Brooke after Max Beerholm's 'The rare, the rather awful visits of Albert, Edward, Prince of Wales, to Windsor Castle'

weight on those early experiences in government: "An analyst would have a lot of fun with them. It's like something out of *Cold Comfort Farm*. Clearly something nasty happened in the woodshed. She came in in 1979 with two ideas fixed: the need to 'deprivilege' the Civil Service; and the notion that somehow public service was a second-rate occupation, that we should be out being entrepreneurs making profits".

Whitehall knew it was in for a bumpy ride when she won the election. Mrs Thatcher's admirable intention of cutting down its own primary bureaucracy and its secondary outgrowth, the quangos, was plain from her Opposition years. Her pushy style was anticipated. Very quickly Treasury men coined the nickname "Attila the Hen". The phrase "She who must be obeyed" began to be heard in the corridors of the Civil Service Department.

"The art of the civil servant these days is damage limitation" was a view seeping out of the Department of Employment. "The PM comes into the category of politicians who make up their mind before looking at the evidence", was the considered judgment of a senior man at the Department of Trade.

Mrs Thatcher remains different from any other Prime Minister in memory in her attitudes towards officials and Cabinet colleagues. One veteran noted: "She was not really running a team. Every time you

have a PM who wants to take all the decisions, it mainly leads to bad results. Atlee didn't, that's why he was so damn good. Macmillan didn't. The nearest parallel to Maggie is Ted". Some of her ministers reckoned that working life sometimes became very difficult "because she showed all the time she had no time for the civil servants".

Lord Rayner, her first efficiency adviser, brought in from Marks and Spencer, designed a chariot for her to ride. Boadicea like, to cut down swathes of bureaucratic waste. A jolly character who rather likes civil servants (the feeling is returned), he reckoned the key to lasting change was to recruit reform-minded insiders to change habits and practices and to build new skills, especially in financial management.

The batch of new permanent secretaries Mrs Thatcher was able to pick in 1982-83, thanks to the mass retirement of the postwar intake, reflected the new Rayner ethos. Most, if not all, were younger, tougher and more managerially minded than those who would have emerged if the machine had been left to its own reproductive devices.

The old breed received a drubbing at a dinner for permanent secretaries in No 10 in 1981 — held at the suggestion of Mr William (now Lord) Whitlaw, who hoped it might improve relations. Mrs Thatcher preached change. Her guests replied with a defence of the public service. Sir Frank Cooper, then Permanent

Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, left to answer a call of nature. "Thank God," said permanent secretary A to permanent secretary B. "Frank's gone to find the SAS to get us out of here!" It ended disastrously with Mrs Thatcher saying: "Gentlemen, it's ten o'clock. Your cars are waiting".

To those top officials she has appointed she takes a different attitude. Indeed, those who work most closely with her speak of kindness, drive and appreciation. She exempts them from her general strictures about bureaucrats. "It is people appointed in peripheral departments before she arrived whose advice she disdains," said one insider. Some from outside the inner circle, and those to whom she feels close, such as Sir Peter Middleton at the Treasury and Sir Clive Whitmore at Defence, do manage to break through provided they stand up to her in argument (she hates hand-wringers).

But one veteran reckons there are fewer and fewer of these. Nobody, for example, forced her to think through the Tovey plan for the deunionization of GCHQ. Similarly, ministers deemed to have gone native on the Whitehall machine can expect short shrift. Lord Soames, as Lord President and Minister for the Civil Service, was sacked partly for being conciliatory during the 1981 industrial dispute and pressing the eventual settlement package on the Cabinet too soon. His successor, Lady Young, the former Lord Privy Seal, was demoted to Minister of State at the Foreign Office for allegedly accepting Civil Service advice too often.

One school of thought maintains there is no alternative to Whitehall bashing, that the old culture has to be broken if recovery is to take place. This school finds its most articulate exponent in Sir John Hoskyns, former head of Mrs Thatcher's Downing Street Policy Unit. He believes that Raynerism, while valuable, is only tinkering with the problem. Without and infusion of new blood and new methods from outside, the necessary strategy for turning the country round cannot materialize. Other Thatcher men in the machine reckon the trade-off between morale and change is inevitable and that history will judge her hard line to have been necessary to shift the bureaucracy in new directions.

Yet other activist prime ministers such as Churchill in 1940-45 and Atlee in 1945-51 have managed to revitalize the machine and bend it to their priorities without arousing the deep animosity produced by the Thatcher style. The difference is that officials then did not find that Churchill and Atlee disliked them as a breed and blamed them for many of the nation's shortcomings. It is the "woodshed factor" that compounds the problem. As Lord Bancroft, former head of the Home Civil Service, put it in a lecture in December, "the ritual words of praise forced out through clenched teeth in public deceive no one if they are accompanied by noisy and obvious cuffs around the ear in semi-private".

But the Civil Service should not feel uniquely aggrieved. Mrs Thatcher is a very anti-establishment figure in general, except when it comes to the Establishment's uniformed branches, the Armed Forces and the police. As Mr Julian Critchley, her most irreverent backbencher, put it: "She cannot see an institution without hitting it with her handbag".

Life has taken Yuri Vashchenko (left) from Siberia via Afghanistan to the West. Now there is no way back for the Russian corporal



about where it was safe to go, where there was shooting, what you could get in the markets — you know, jeans, radios and things. But the atmosphere was tense. No one trusted anyone else."

His unit's job was to repair trucks and tanks at a base just outside Kabul. One night a week after his arrival curiosity got the better of him and he went for a stroll. He had gone only 500 yards when he was seized by guerrillas and dragged away.

Marching by night over the rocky mountains. Hiding often in the dark from Soviet aircraft, he was hustled from village to village. An interpreter told him they were taking him to Pakistan, but the only word of Russian anyone else spoke was "Dava!" — come on.

"I wanted to kill myself. I simply didn't want to live. Where was my childhood? Where was my family? Why had I been sent here?"

After 10 days he managed to escape while his guard was asleep. For the next 30 hours he wandered alone in the mountains, no map, no compass, no provisions. Finally he was picked up by another group of guerrillas. "They seemed better educated. They tried to show me they were fighting for their freedom, that our forces were occupying their country. I could no longer walk because my feet were so swollen, and I was put on a horse."

"When we got to Pakistan I was taken to a town where some of the Afghan rebels beat me on my arms and legs. Then I was bundled into a car and taken to the office of the Red Cross. I had never heard of it before.

I was told I was a prisoner of war, and was put on a plane for Switzerland."

At Zurich he was met by the Red Cross and two consular officers from the Soviet Embassy. "One of them embraced me. He said I was safe now, everything would be fine and they were waiting for me back home."

He was told of a decree promising no disciplinary action against those taken prisoner. But he had his doubts. He had been told what had happened to Soviet prisoners who had returned home in 1945. How they had been sent straight to the camps.

In Switzerland he went to hospital to have his feet treated. As he recovered, he found the West was not the bellish place he had been led to believe — hungry unemployed people, arrests on the street, crime and violence, the land thick with American rockets.

He remembers looking at everything he saw with wonderment, the contrast between Switzerland and Afghanistan, which had shocked him with its poverty, could not have been greater. But soon he was interned in a prisoner of war camp reminiscent of something from the Second World War: a lonely wooden hut on the slopes of the Zugerberg, surrounded by coils of barbed wire and watchtowers, and with armed Swiss soldiers to guard him and the other seven prisoners.

All had to work, otherwise they went to the punishment cell. In the camp, Vashchenko had to wash dishes and clean up. They were visited by Soviet Embassy officials. Their letters were controlled, they

were not allowed to talk politics, or discuss Afghanistan or their own experiences. "For me this was far worse psychologically than being on the mountains or in Pakistan."

Once a week, however, they were allowed out, under escort, into the nearby town of Zug, where they could sit for a couple of hours in a café. One day, after six months in the camp, he gave his escort the slip. With 30 francs in his pocket, he hitch-hiked to Zurich, bought a map, and then hitch-hiked back to Basel, where he managed to get across the border without being checked. He went on to Freiburg and on July 8, his second evening in Germany, he went into a police station and asked for asylum.

But his difficulties were far from over. Bonn, embarrassed by the presence of the first Soviet prisoner of war on German soil since 1945, promptly turned down his request. The Government did not want to jeopardize the delicate arrangement with the Red Cross that might spare other Russians. A third kind of German human rights organization provided him with a lawyer — whom he has seen once in eight months — and he lodged an appeal. He is waiting — and so, he thinks, is Bonn — to see what happens to the first two Soviet prisoners at Zugerberg who are due to go home in May when their term is up.

After a spell in a Karlsruhe camp for asylum applicants, Vashchenko has been moved to a flat in the city centre, which he shares with two others. His room is small but warm and adequately furnished with a desk, radio and television. He receives DM 265 (£66) a month in social security and has exchanged his army khaki for jeans, check shirt and an anorak. But he is not allowed to take a job, find employment or leave Karlsruhe.

He has been taking German lessons intermittently, paid for by the local Christian Democratic Party, but finds the language hard going, and he has no friends or acquaintances to practice it. Switzerland, which was undoubtedly meant being sent back to the Soviet Union. But he hopes this will not happen. One day, perhaps, the past two years might make sense to him. At present, he says with a shy smile, it just seems unbelievable.

Michael Binyon

Ferdinand Mount

Bursting Eeyore's balloon budgets

A good clean Budget is what the fancy now looks forward to, much as the referee asks the boxers for a good clean fight when he calls them into the middle of the ring.

"Clean" in this sense means simply, do away with as many tax concessions, reliefs, schemes and loopholes as is politically possible, and "hand back" the money saved in the form of lower tax rates. For such distortions only lead to further distortions and force governments to keep the rates at their ridiculously high levels.

The standard rate of income tax could come down from 30p in the £ to nearer 25p if the 4,000m relief for pensions, annuities and life assurance were swept away. Corporation tax could come down from 52p in the £ to 40p or even 30p by phasing out the capital allowances for investment in plant and machinery, depending on how fast and how far they were reduced.

Even if Nigel Lawson does not attempt anything nearly as dramatic as this next week, the emergence of cleanliness as a prime test of a good Budget is a fascinating development.

Until very recently, cleanliness was an obsession mostly confined to the Inland Revenue. Chancellors of the Exchequer were more excited by the prospect of "taking money out of" or "putting money back into" the economy, rather like the way Eeyore spent his birthday shifting the remains of a burst balloon in and out of the honey jar which had been presented to him, already emptied, by Winnie the Pooh. "Eeyore economics" — better known as "fine tuning" — pretended to regulate the rate of economic growth, inflation and unemployment by all this putting in and drawing out.

The precise make-up of these increases or reductions in taxation (or of new taxes introduced or, more rarely, of old ones withdrawn) was not a "sexy subject" — to use the dreadful term with which practitioners of the dismal science try to calve it.

The interest in "clean budgeting" suggests two things: first, that a ramshackle consensus against Eeyore economics is building up. Although Mr Kinnock's Labour Party and, to a lesser extent, Dr David Owen's Social Democratic Party, still claim to be committed to growth, it is a wary, hedged sort of commitment. The truth is that nobody can get up on a platform these days and promise to "expand Britain out of trouble" or "get unemployment down to one million", without hearing an uneasy shuffling at the back of the hall.

Most people now tend to think that a very large increase in public expenditure would have to be paid for, honestly, in higher taxes.

"Borrow, borrow, borrow" is no longer a popular slogan.

At the same time, it suggests that a large reduction in public expenditure is not very likely either. Indeed, Mrs Thatcher has already told Mr Brian Walden as much. The principal components of public expenditure — defence, health, social

security and education — are not going to melt away overnight into the private sector. Besides, in a modern society these are items on which more either ought to be spent or will be spent, whether we like it or not. Their cost can only be reduced as a proportion of the nation's wealth — and that only if the nation's wealth grows faster than they do.

Hence "clean budgeting". If we sweep away all these distortions, so the argument goes, we say goodbye to the tax-dodgers, and to the otherwise futile schemes and wheezes they think up in order to minimize their tax liability.

Entrepreneurs and the rest of us will make decisions on their merits, and not for tax reasons.

For example, abolish the tax relief on mortgage interest, and the worst that would happen is that the price of houses would come down. Far from fewer houses being built, it is possible that more might be since developers could start building or converting houses for rent again, which is at present usually fiscal suicide (except in the case of the assured tenancies scheme).

Reduce or abolish capital allowances and firms would no longer be artificially induced to instal new machinery and make so many people redundant. The tax system would then at least be neutral between people and machines; it would not deter employers from keeping up to date; but on balance, it would encourage them to employ more workers.

Above all, a clean system with lower tax rates would be attractive to enterprise, both home-grown and from overseas. It would answer best to what is obviously needed — a Budget for employment.

The snags are equally plain. Any Treasury proposal to widen the tax base always sparks the fiercest possible opposition. The building societies have already protested about the reasonable, if somewhat abrupt, ruling that their dealing in gilts should be taxed.

The newspapers are squawking at the suggestion that they should be charged VAT: the take-away food industry will do the same. Are we in for a rerun of that humiliating episode in which the Treasury was forced to back down from taxing children's clothing and shoes (a proposal which, in Ireland, is said to have helped bring down Mr Haughey's government)? British governments have often boasted that less than half of household expenditure is subject to VAT. But is that really anything to be proud of, if the consequence is punitive high rates on the stuff that is taxed?

A clean Budget will achieve popular acceptance only if people can see the carrot at the same time as they see the stick. If more things are to be taxed, we must see the lower tax rates now. Otherwise, governments may well take refuge in Eeyore economics again.

"But Eeyore wasn't listening. He was taking the balloon out and putting it back again, as happy as could be..."

Anne Sofer

Why being right is so unfashionable

Tony Benn has an enviable way of capturing the commanding heights of the moral argument. When asked by Vincent Harris during the Chesterfield count to comment on the results of the *Newsnight* exit poll, he declined, saying that he had such "reverence for the democratic process" that he would make no comment on any but the actual figures. This left me squirming with guilty complicity at having been so thoroughly enjoying the irreverent discussion — that had been going on unflinchingly on my television screen for the previous two hours.

Roy Hattersley, Benn's Labour Party colleague on that programme who was certainly to that act of sacrilege, certainly seemed to be making less resonant claims for democracy. Labour's standing was improving, he said, because Kinnock's image was so "modern and moderate and up-to-date". Compare that with the towering certitude of Benn's "democracy is about right and wrong".

Well, I agree with that statement of Benn's, and I think he is good for us because he brings us back to fundamentals. There are certainly big issues of right and wrong at just of presentation — in politics at the moment. It is wrong, for instance, that people are being deprived of the right of free association, that elections are being abolished, that the poor are being allowed to get poorer while the rich get richer, that the old are neglected and the young deprived of hope, and that those with kidney failure and bone marrow disease are allowed unnecessarily to die. And it is particularly wrong that all these policies are being pursued by a government that does not have the support of the majority of voters.

All the things which Benn spoke of with such passionate conviction — the need for more jobs, decent homes, a better education system — are common ground between Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties, and among a submerged but possibly large chunk of the Conservative Party as well. The evil at present is that the will of the people is not finding expression in Parliament.

Many in the Labour Party see this and are uncomfortable about it. There are discussions in left-wing periodicals about proportional representation and electoral pacts. Most toe a line in the water and hastily withdraw it. An article in the *New Statesman*, by Peter Kellner entitled "How to change the voting system and remain a socialist" would more accurately have been called "How to

change the voting system and make sure Mrs Thatcher stays in power". It advocates the "alternative vote" system, which — as his meticulous analysis of the options indicates — would have given the Alliance 10 per cent of the seats for 25 per cent of the votes cast in June 1983 — too few to force Mrs Thatcher out of office.

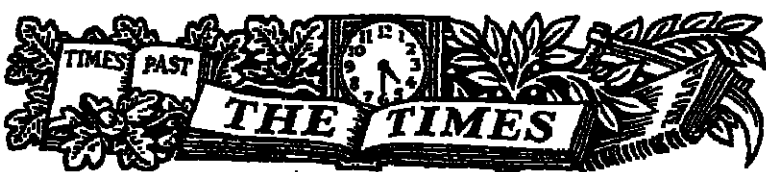
A long article by Raymond Williams in the current *New Socialist* spells out with astonishing honesty the advantages that would have been enjoyed by the nation if "the 57 per cent of votes against the present Conservative government had not been distorted by an absurd electoral system but had produced a majority of non-Conservative representatives". These include: rationing, cancellations of cuts in welfare services and education, and more positive moves to disarmament — all policies which (he says) "would without question produce some marked improvements in our present circumstances". Nevertheless he then goes on to reject the idea of any coalition, on the ground that "none of the policies is in any distinctive sense socialist".

What is needed instead of any such political compromises is "a rational reconstruction (over the next four years) of all the main directions of policy in the light of the most open and informed contemporary socialist analysis". This is presumably what Benn described last week as "the only interesting debate going on in Britain at the moment, the debate about the future in terms of the socialist argument".

Now where in all of this is the spirit of nonconformity that was so continually evoked at Chesterfield? My own forebears came from that tradition, and to me its most important contribution to British politics is its emphasis on individual conscience and responsibility, on tolerance for the views and beliefs of others, and on good works rather than theological argument.

The very word nonconformity suggests a rejection of orthodoxy, a plurality of attitudes, and insistence on fairness to minorities. If the Chartists and Suffragettes are part of the same tradition, so surely must be the present foot-slogging pavement marchers in the Campaign for Fair Votes. Certainly they can lay more claim to that inheritance than those socialists whose anathematizing of every other political creed is part of an altogether different tradition.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.



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A TALE OF TWO GULFS

Under the Carter doctrine the United States had declared that it would go to war to prevent a Soviet occupation of Iran. Under President Reagan, that commitment is clearly being rethought, in favour of a much more limited undertaking to keep open the Straits of Hormuz should attempts be made to close it by either party to the Iran/Iraq war. To underwrite that commitment the United States maintains a permanent force of warships in the area. Britain and France also maintain a discreet but very much smaller naval presence in the area though they have not yet associated themselves publicly in any way with the President's declaration.

There are a number of important legal and strategic implications to these developments. Legally speaking, the Straits of Hormuz are an international waterway since they connect two parts of the high seas. It would thus be an illegal act for Iran to close the Straits. Any power, not just a riparian state, would then be entitled to assert the right of free passage through the Straits, using force in self-defence if necessary.

There are two practical ways for the Iranians to attempt to interdict the Straits. They could mine the channels, or blockade shipping. A blockade of shipping could clearly be met by force, but the law is unclear about the legality of minesweeping.

Though it may not be technically clear at this stage whether any warship, American or otherwise, would be strictly within the law, if it set out to clear all the channels of Iranian mines, there would certainly have to be some international attempt to do so in the event that Iran announced that the Straits had been mined. The traffic in oil tankers to and from the Gulf is too important for West European and Japanese

oil supplies for any prolonged impediment to occur.

Although considerable stockpiling of oil has taken place during a period of glut, and alternative sources would be available before the emergency stockpiles had expired, the developed world is still curiously reliant on Gulf oil. In 1982, for instance, half the total consumption of Japanese, French and Italian oil came from the Gulf States. With Britain and West Germany the figure was one fifth. In the United States it is a declining source down to about seven per cent of consumption with the greater part of American oil imports now coming from Mexico or elsewhere in the Americas.

The significance of this trend should not be lost on Europeans or on the Japanese as they contemplate the evidence of the continued American commitment to keeping open the Straits of Hormuz. Yet it seems to be, both by the absence of any European or Japanese enthusiasm for shouldering the burden which should more properly fall on them and by the continual carping and criticism which are inflicted on Washington for its policies in Central America and the Caribbean.

The paramount American strategic interest is now in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean both because that is the area through which most of its oil imports pass and because the potential dangers of political instability there cast a sharper shadow on the United States than do those in the Middle East or Asia. It has long been a complaint in Washington that its strategic sensitivity in Central America is at best misunderstood and at worst dismissed by its allies. Should they continue along these lines, the argument runs, the time will surely come when the United States is less

willing to bale out its allies in their own emergencies.

That point has clearly not yet been reached if Washington is still prepared to commit itself unilaterally to keep open the Straits of Hormuz, even though that waterway is now of much less significance to the American economy than it is to the Europeans and the Japanese. But with the exception of Britain and France, where are the other navies now? We hear surprisingly little from them in spite of the manifest danger to their oil supplies. Should they not be more ready to act in their own interests than to sit back and expect the United States to police the world alone as well as having to put up with the armchair criticisms of American policy in Central America?

The European allies should remember that there are two Gulfs of major strategic importance to their future. We know about the Persian Gulf and the danger of interruption to oil supply. We should not forget that other Gulf, since in any major European emergency the Nato alliance would plan to ferry more than one million men and twenty million tons of fuel, equipment and stores across the Atlantic, nine tenths of which would come by sea and the vast majority of that from American ports which open on to the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean. If strategic burden-sharing is to have any practical meaning, the Europeans and Japanese should not let the Americans do it all themselves in the Straits of Hormuz. They should associate their activities more openly with any plan to protect the Straits as an international waterway, both at the United Nations if necessary, and by inviting the Gulf Cooperation Council of the Arab states to participate in joint discussions on the danger.

BENN THE CATALYST

Tomorrow Mr Tony Benn takes his new seat in the House of Commons. He has won it with a smaller majority and with fewer votes than his right-wing Labour predecessor, Mr Eric Varley. At a time when the government's public image has been less than entrancing, the Labour Party might have been expected to do better. Chesterfield, therefore, is not Bennism triumphant. Nor will Mr Benn's return to Westminster shake Mrs Thatcher, which is not to say that she is unshakable by other agencies. On the other hand, it is likely to assist the further destabilization of the Labour Party.

Though he offered himself as the candidate of true socialism, promising milk and honey, during the Chesterfield campaign, Mr Benn carefully avoided party controversy. Just as on television he will discount a questioner with the observation that what the "people at home" want to know is something other than the question he is being asked, so he blandly presented the recent campaign as being not about himself, but "about Chesterfield" whatever precisely that may mean. Here he was the plain man of the people, his upper-class speech infused with a hint of folksy accent when campaigning.

On this basis, the leaders of the party from all wings rallied round. But that has settled nothing. Mr Benn is the same Mr Benn who gave aid and comfort to the militant elements who have changed its face and its organization, and who protected them whenever he could. His rejection at Bristol in the general election may have robbed him of whatever chance he had of succeeding Mr Foot as leader. But he will certainly be elected to the shadow Cabinet in due course where Mr Kinnock will find him as difficult a colleague as Lord Wilson and Mr James Callaghan did - assuming, that is, that Mr Kinnock is serious about preserving a place for moderation in the party. Only if Mr Benn moves a finger to help those MPs (who will include Mr Shore, Mr Silkin and perhaps even Mr Kaufman) who are in danger of losing their seats when Labour MPs have to be re-elected at the end of this year can we believe that he wants unity by force.

As for policy, Mr Kinnock has avoided party divisions by virtually not discussing it since the election, with the notable exception of his announcement (so disconcerting to Mr Healey and Mr Hattersley) that he

would never press the nuclear button. Mr Benn, however, is not likely to help by staying silent on controversial questions. His attitudes are made clear in the document leaked this week-end proclaiming his belief in transferring the prerogatives of the Crown to the House of Commons majority, cutting the powers of the Prime Minister, abolishing the second chamber, and the rest of it.

It is a document some months ago but its age does not diminish its interest. There is no suggestion that Mr Benn has changed his views. Nor does it matter whether it was leaked by right-wing Labour opponents of Mr Benn (how could they have got hold of it?) or by one of his friends who thought its publication might be interesting. It usefully reminds us that Mr Benn's idea of democracy is party democracy. It is democracy through the party and for the party. That is alien to our system. If Mr Benn carries forward his campaign for party democracy, leading to the exclusion of all moderates who do not accept his version of socialism, that will surely only assist his party's long term decline. The question is whether Mr Kinnock has the heart, the skill and the will to stop him.

TIME TO MELT THE ICE

The lecture halls of learned institutions have echoed over the past few years with recently retired permanent secretaries calling for rethinks and reform. It is a welcome addition to public knowledge to hear former public servants like Lord Hunt of Tanworth, for six years Secretary of the Cabinet, on the creaking machinery of Cabinet government or Sir Frank Cooper, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence 1976-82, on a new conventional strategy for battlefield weaponry. The frequency of such performances indicates that therapy-by-public lecture is needed after a 30-year career in Whitehall's secret service. Matters have moved a stage further, however, when one of the retired bureaucratic grandees signs up with a pressure group whose activities menace the private system of government stoutly defended by the Prime Minister.

Sir Douglas Wass was until last Easter both Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and Joint Head of the Home Civil Service, *ex officio* a stern upholder of *Estacode*, the Civil Service bible of do's and don'ts, which binds officials to rules and codes that would grace a closed religious order. For him to join forces - as he will today - with Mr Des Wilson's 1984 Campaign for Freedom of Information, is comparable to a retired reverend mother becoming a chorus girl. It is all the more refreshing for that.

The permanent secretaries Sir Douglas left behind were already getting jumpy about Mr Wilson's crusade. His proposed freedom of information act is very difficult to portray as a wild, irresponsible measure as it exempts the advice of civil servants to ministers, always the chief sticking point of the guardians of official secrecy when the issue has arisen in the past. With Sir Douglas on board, Mr Wilson appears almost respectable. There has never been anything quite like the Wilson-Wass duo.

If evidence was required of the timeliness of Sir Douglas's conversion, it is news that his old department, the Treasury, has received at long last Cabinet permission to publish a Green Paper on long term public spending. At first sight the news is cheering. Perhaps ministers have overcome the paralysis of will that afflicted them 18 months ago when the Think Tank's study of spending prospects was leaked. But the condition attached to publication by the Cabinet soon dispels premature optimism. The Green Paper can go to the printers provided it contains no option or statistic which Opposition, MP, pressure group or citizen could hurl back as evidence of a hidden agenda with dismantling of the welfare state as its priority. Mr Lawson's foray into open government will be a very timid affair. If the Government were to be even

half-way radical in its second term, a proper debate about financing public and social services is a valley through which it must pass. The lesson of the Lawson exercise reinforces that of the past - that no administration will be frank with Parliament and public unless forced to be so.

There is a way forward. Tomorrow Mr David Steel will place before the Commons a freedom of information measure under the 10-minute rule. It is bound to fail. The Government can kill it merely by ignoring it. How sensible it would be, however, if the Cabinet recognized the groundswell in favour of more open government and, instead of the usual silent or negative response, used Mr Steel's Bill as a peg on which to hang the announcement of a willingness to debate and discuss in the hope of reaching a consensus on the issue. The all-party Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee has indicated it is keen at some point to hold hearings on freedom of information. The Government should encourage it and offer to provide all the help it can. It would be sensible and beneficial if open government arrived in Britain as a result of reason, analysis and discussion rather than in a hurried, messy rush after a scandal or a parliamentary defeat. It is time the Whitehall ice-age came to an end.

Officers' dilemma in police Bill

From Dr Robert Baldwin

The Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales asserts (February 28) that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill does contain real sanctions for breaches of the proposed codes of practice on police detention and questioning. Whether or not one accepts the adequacy of disciplinary as opposed to legal sanctions, there are two major points here that Mr Curtis fails to consider.

The first is that the Bill places police officers on the horns of an impossible dilemma. Clause 69 states that a court may exclude from evidence confessions that have been obtained by oppression. Sub-clause (6), however, expressly allows the admission of "any facts discovered as a result" of that confession (and "oppression" here includes torture).

The law thus creates a strong incentive for ambitious police officers to gain evidence by methods that may clearly breach the code of practice.

If, on the other hand, an officer is caught breaching the code Mr Curtis warns: "Our members stand to lose their jobs, or their rank, or be heavily fined, by police disciplinary hearings". The law, in this respect, places both officer and suspect in an unfair position.

The second point flows from this. As the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) report showed, the law has a limited role in regulating police procedures; far more important is the extent to which superior officers can control their junior colleagues.

The problem here is that officers of the lower ranks tend to starve their seniors of the information necessary for such supervision. What the Bill does, with its contradictory rules on admissibility and discipline, is actually to encourage secrecy about how interrogations are conducted; that is how officers will resolve their dilemma.

The Bill will put up barriers between the ranks when PSI tells us that increased communication and supervision is where the real hope of improving police performance lies.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BALDWIN,
Wolfson College, Oxford.

Shots in the dark

From Mr Brian Lewis

The excellent article by Diana Geddes (February 24) on the "Mediterranean mix" contains one instructive, understandable and illustrative error.

"Shooting blindly into the dark from your home at a suspected intruder is not an act of self-defence under French law. French law is roughly the same as English. One can only use reasonable force against trespassers."

However, the French do blast away into the night and do construct lethal explosive engines when absent from their dwellings, and invariably juries willfully refuse to convict, even though the judges sit with them during their deliberations.

They apply the understanding of the unwritten code Ms Geddes so ably describes, in spite of the law. Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LEWIS,
39 Avenue Victor-Hugo,
75116 Paris.

'Can pay, must pay'

From Dr S.A. Hefferman

Sir, Your interpretation of the current international debt problems ("Can pay, must pay", February 27), contains at least two errors which need to be put right.

It is incorrect to suggest that the external debt incurred by developing nations over the last decade has been used for unproductive economic activities. For most of these nations the share of national income invested has risen on average since 1970. This does not support the idea that borrowed funds were primarily used to finance consumption.

You argue that it is up to the borrowers and lenders to be involved to find a solution, apparently assigning no role to third-party intervention. At the same time you identify the potential cartel threat of large debtors ("Can pay, won't pay") and the recent difficulties encountered by some healthy developing nations in their attempt to procure new loans.

These points underline the interdependent nature of the international banking system and highlight some of the reasons why unregulated free market forces could precipitate an unnecessary crisis. At the national level it has long been recognized that problems arising from interdependencies of the sort described are best solved through regulation of the banking system.

Debtors countries can pay and will succeed in paying provided governments of all countries view the current problems as a strong signal for regulation of international lending.

Yours sincerely,
S.A. HEFFERMAN,
Business School,
The City University,
Friar-church Crescent,
Barbican, EC2.

'Relevant' studies

From Dr John Miller

Sir, Further to Professor Harbury's letter (February 14) the thinking behind the Government's stated wish to see "a shift towards technological, scientific, engineering and other vocationally relevant forms of study" within the universities appears both arbitrary and muddled.

Dead-end branches on surgical tree

From Mr David Le Vay

Sir, I am inclined to agree with Canon Bentley (February 25) that we should not take too literally the injunction to become members one of another.

But seriously, current public and political attitudes towards transplants and other heroic forms of surgery reveal a failure to grasp the truth of the situation. Such surgery is the high-technology treatment of the end results of long-standing disease processes; and if this is all we do we shall be no further forward at the end of the century.

Transplants and open-heart surgery and joint replacement are sensitive to the public and exciting challenges for surgeons and do a lot for individual patients in the light of our present knowledge.

They are also ruinously expensive in money, skill, staff and hospital beds, and an orchestrated demand for their expansion within a tight health budget can only mean an even longer waiting time for sufferers from the common and readily curable conditions which make life miserable and painful and disgusting.

In proper perspective the new procedures are not heroic breakthroughs at all. They are makeshifts and one day we shall look back on them as mere blind branches of the tree of surgical progress. Necessary as they are in the short term, they must be accompanied by ample funding for the basic research which will make them unnecessary.

We shall ultimately learn how to prevent or reverse at an early stage the disease processes responsible for our great killing and disabling disorders - chronic arthritis, arterial degeneration and cancer. And we shall do so by quite simple and inexpensive means, as we have already done for diphtheria and meningitis and poliomyelitis and tuberculosis.

When I began orthopaedic practice spinal tuberculosis meant years in bed and a doubtful cure; now it no longer exists in the West, and in Asia and Africa is cured rapidly and cheaply without even requiring hospitalization.

We need to be satisfied that adequate funds are being allotted to the relevant basic research, for instance to understanding the immunological reactions involved in chronic nephritis, an understanding which could make most kidney transplants unnecessary.

Very little research of this kind can be carried out within the health service as such. True, there are major research organizations funded from governmental and charitable

Africa's empty larder

From Sir Gordon Cox, FRS

Sir, You say, very justly, (leading article, February 15) that potentially the best form of aid is in the form of manpower. But potential will not be translated into effective action without a good deal more than the beginning of a change of emphasis in aid policy, welcome though that may be.

In this country there is a large reservoir of scientific skills applicable to the agricultural problems of Africa and many agricultural scientists with the will to help. But those who can help most are those with experience, and therefore not in the first flush of youth; they are not free to act without thought for the morrow. Consequently if they are to go they need some assurance of not being disadvantaged too much in their careers when they return.

The 1961 Frazer commission on the structure and financing of research in East Africa proposed that this difficulty should be overcome by means of "dormant contracts", to be offered by the British research councils, which would guarantee a scientist employment for long enough to enable him to pick up the threads of his interrupted career.

National Trust help

From Lady Labouchere

Sir, As one who lives in a house which I donated, with the estate, to the National Trust in 1978, I wish strongly to support the letters of Mr James-Lees-Milne and Mr Martin Briggs in today's *Times* (February 24).

During the years since "the gift" my husband and I have received from the trust the fullest understanding and cooperation in furthering our aim of creating the highest potential to enable an old and beautiful family home and its contents to be enjoyed by the public.

Schools cash cutbacks

From Sir William Hayter

Sir, Professor Wragg (February 23), calls attention to the isolation of schools in rural areas and to the difficulty of forming a pressure group to fight decisions made in London or in the county hall.

In Oxfordshire we have, with the cooperation of the local education authority, formed an Association of Chairmen of Oxfordshire Secondary Schools (Acos) which has, we think, had some impact on county decisions and, indeed, has been able to make representations in London.

Beneath this arbitrary distinction between subjects or courses which are "vocationally relevant" and those which are not lies another, between employments which are "economically productive" and those which are not. Often the two distinctions are confused or conflated.

One is told that arts graduates go in for teaching, or journalism, or museum work (or perhaps the Civil Service), but not "real" jobs. With that in mind, it is worth referring to the most recently published UGC (University Grants Committee) statistics on the first employments of arts and languages in 1981-82.

Much the largest group (almost 55 per cent) went into industry and commerce, as against less than 20

per cent entering public service posts. Considered functionally, about 60 per cent found employments involving administration, buying and selling, finance or personnel management.

Most such employments require skills in analysis, in communication and in understanding people of the sort developed in arts courses, which would suggest that such courses, too, should be seen as "vocationally relevant". Or would it perhaps be wiser to abandon this misleading concept and these arbitrary distinctions altogether?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MILLER,
Department of History,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
Mile End Road, E1.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LE VAY,
c/o Courts & Co.,
16 Cavendish Square, W1.

From The Reverend David Barnes
Sir, Canon Bentley (February 25) can't be serious! Can he really believe that there is any difference philosophically, theologically, or morally between the surgical dissection of his corpse and the effective use of pieces from it for the good of others, and the alternatives of its total destruction by fire or its devouring by worms?

He says that he fears that parts of his body may become accessories to actions of which he could not approve. If such an argument has any merit, its converse must equally be true: that is, those body-parts may make possible actions of the highest moral order - perhaps even greater than they had reached in their previous ownership, and indeed may even become the stuff of which saints are made!

Once a body has completed its initial task of conveying a human soul through this world there is no earthly (or heavenly) reason why it should not be re-used where possible to assist the passage of other human souls. The God-given skills of surgeons to accomplish this are not too far removed from such miraculous happenings as the raising of Jairus's daughter or the restoration of sight to blind Bartimaeus; and the suggested new system to make an infinitely greater number of organs available for such profoundly humane operations as are now possible must surely find favour with a large majority of people, of all faiths and none.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BARNES,
Sutton Valence School,
Sutton Valence,
Maidstone, Kent.
February 25.

It was not an expensive scheme and in the following years the agricultural and medical research councils, with the support of the Department of Technical Co-operation (later the Ministry of Overseas Development), gave dormant contracts to a number of scientists who made substantial contributions to Third World agriculture and medicine.

For various reasons the scheme largely faded out in the seventies but I know of no reason why it should not be revived successfully if what I have referred to elsewhere (*Science and Public Policy*, August, 1983) as the decline in confidence were reversed.

Unhappily the present policy of cutting back agricultural research, with its trail of redundancies and dislocations, scarcely provides the assurances for the future that anyone contemplating temporary service overseas could reasonably expect. A healthy and confident (but not necessarily more expensive) agricultural research service at home is an essential prerequisite for the provision of effective aid overseas.

Yours truly,
E.G. COX,
117 Hampstead Way, NW11.

It is clear from the many expressions of appreciation received from our visitors and the willing assistance of both paid and unpaid staff that our objective is being achieved.

I am sure in writing this I am echoing the views of many donors of properties to the trust, who must surely be surprised that so ill-conceived and mischievous an article as that of Mr Scruton's (February 21) should have found its way into the columns of *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL LABOUCHERE,
Dudmaston,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

We realize that the formation of an association of this kind would be more difficult for primary than for secondary schools, since the former are so far, more numerous, but nevertheless we think it is an example that could be imitated elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HAYTER, Chairman,
Association of Chairmen of Oxfordshire Secondary Schools,
Bassett House,
Stanton St John,
Oxford,
February 23.

Most such employments require skills in analysis, in communication and in understanding people of the sort developed in arts courses, which would suggest that such courses, too, should be seen as "vocationally relevant". Or would it perhaps be wiser to abandon this misleading concept and these arbitrary distinctions altogether?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MILLER,
Department of History,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
Mile End Road, E1.

Call for cable TV safeguards

From Sir John Gielgud and others

Sir, Those who sign this letter care deeply for the maintenance of standards on our television screens when the Cable and Broadcasting Bill becomes law later this year.

We recognise that an extension of television could benefit actors, directors, producers and all who work in this medium, but only within a carefully constructed legislative framework providing a properly constituted Cable Authority with adequate powers.

However, we have read with dismay the reports of the debates in the House of Lords, where the Cable Bill has concluded its committee stage. Our concern lies with the present intention to only lay down that there shall be "proper proportions" of material originating in Britain or other EEC countries, shown on cable television.

Government spokesmen have steadfastly resisted all attempts to amend this vague concept, by introducing even a minimum quota of 50 per cent for the first three years, let alone the present quota accepted by the BBC and the IBA of 86 per cent British/EEC material.

Now that the Bill has returned to the House of Lords we strongly urge that it be improved to provide for the maximum practicable proportion of British/EEC material. We acknowledge that cable companies will have special problems in the early years and we would support a formula stipulating an increasing quota of British/EEC material over a given period.

Unless Parliament lays down some such formula from the beginning we fear it will be all too easy for cable operators to plead financial pressure to justify flooding our screens with cheap foreign material which would have a deleterious effect on the high standards of BBC and ITV programmes.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GIELGUD,
JACK GOLD,
EDWARD FOX,
DONALD SINDEN,
MICHAEL HORDERN,
DEREK JACOBI,
8 Harley Street, W1,
February 28.

Palm House at Kew

From the Director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Sir, As the director of a museum actively engaged in conservation and also as a council member of the association for Industrial Archaeology, I would like to take issue with the letter from Jennifer Freeman with regard to the proposed reconstruction of the Palm House at Kew (February 11).

The engineers involved in this conservation project, as well as the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, have made every effort to consult those experts in the field who understand the conservation of iron structures. We acknowledge the fact that if the building is to be restored then ideally the replacement materials chosen should match the originals. Unfortunately wrought iron has now not been manufactured anywhere in the world for the last ten years.

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum is currently rebuilding a complete ironworks which, in the next five years, should be capable of manufacturing wrought iron, but it is extremely doubtful that the rolling of such complicated sections as glazing bars will be achievable in the near future.

Quite properly the engineers have recommended stainless steel, which is a better material for the proposed application. The steel will be painted and there will be no visible difference to the visitor.

We do not feel that it is reasonable to hold up the restoration of such an important structure pending the completion of our project at Ironbridge.

Yours faithfully,
STUART B. SMITH, Director,
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust,
Ironbridge,
Shropshire.

Tom Keating as faker

From Mr T.A. Milligan

Sir, "Do not speak ill of the dead", Well, Tilly Marshall (February 22) has well and truly broken that barrier.

Why is she so heavy in criticising Tom Keating, "self-confessed faker and criminal"? If the art world was one of moral purity I could understand her attitude but, let's face it, chum, buying pictures today is not for the aesthetic merit, but for their financial value, and better still for their resale value.

Theo sold Van Gogh's first painting for a few hundred francs; today, £250,000?

I know a collector (very famous) who keeps most of his Impressionists in a bank vault, awaiting the price hype. Criminal? No, Tom Keating by his own talent, devoted though he was, only tried to do the same - make a profit out of painting.

Yours etc,
SPIKE MILLIGAN,
Spike Milligan Productions Ltd,
9 Orme Court, W2,
February 22.

Words and meanings

From Mr R.H. Greet

Sir, Since we are on the subject of Fowler and his *COD*, I should like to quote my favourite entry: "Videlicet, adv. (abbr. viz. pron. na.mli)". That must have puzzled a few foreign students of the English language.

Yours faithfully,
R.H. GREET,
The Stead,
Kintbury,
Newbury,
Berkshire,
February 24.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why sterling should await its chance

An argument the Treasury can never quite exterminate is creeping out of the woodwork again. Should Britain lock sterling into the European Monetary System? The EMS, or "supersnake" of European currencies which attempt to move together against all others, is five years old next week – the kind of bogus milestone that prompts reconsideration, particularly when currency markets are on the move. Britain's most dedicated Europeans (Mr Christopher Tugendhat and Mr Roy Jenkins) are trooping to the lectern to celebrate the EMS's success. The political arguments for joining now are as dubious as ever. But there are some quite strong economic arguments for penning in full membership for the end of the present exchange-rate cycle.

When the Conservative Government took office in 1979, it favoured joining the EMS "when the time is right". This willingness to contemplate a partially fixed exchange rate was intended to contrast monetary toughness with what the Government described as the inflationary, devaluatory tendencies of its predecessors. Since 1979, however, periodic pleas by the Foreign Office that the time was at last right to please the EEC by joining up have been firmly brushed aside by the Prime Minister.

Sterling's full membership would be popular with EEC governments because it would stabilize their exchange rates against the European currency unit. This community invention is a weighted composite of all EEC currencies, including sterling (which is one reason why we are, willy-nilly, partial members of the EMS). So when sterling drifts away from the other Europeans, the ecu is dragged away from them too.

In Britain, there is a particular lobby for full membership of the EMS interested in the ecu – the farmers, who would like stability in sterling's exchange rate against the ecu to help damp down fluctuations in their price subsidies. But the pro-Europeans plead larger political advantages: that it would be easier for a British government to take tough economic policy decisions if it could show they were needed to hold Britain's place in the EMS.

It is true that governments forced to U-turn from over-spending to austerity (Britain in 1976, France in 1983) like to be able to claim an external imperative. For Britain, the bogymon was the International Monetary Fund; for France, the EMS club. But even if Britain were now in that same position, the British are not cast in the same European mould as the French. It is delightfully ridiculous to try to imagine any British government attempting to drum up domestic political support for, say, a hike in interest rates by pleading the necessity of keeping in with the EEC.

But if the British are not as community-minded as the French, neither are they as uncaring about their exchange rate as the Americans. Sterling's ups and downs have immediate impact. Economists have spent much effort these past 20 years, trying to convince the rest of humanity that free floating exchange rates are the most efficient way of correcting distortions.

An admirable Bank of England analysis last autumn identified the true disadvantages of exchange-rate volatility. While currencies overshoot and then correct themselves, they force through economic changes not so easily reversed. Wage inflation, notoriously, rises much more

easily with devaluation than it falls in response to a rising exchange rate. So, in response to exchange-rate movements, real wages seldom fall and often rise.

As Britain found out in 1980, this means a rising exchange rate can force big companies out of business; they do not reopen so promptly when costs adjust or the exchange falls. And while a rising exchange rate increases demands for import controls, there is no corresponding pressure for the tariff walls to come down when a currency falls.

All of which means that a series of currency cycles ratchets up costs, unemployment and protectionism in a manner which makes it seem blindingly obvious that a customs union, at least, must be underpinned by internal currency stability, just the same there have always been two great disadvantages for Britain in participation in the EMS.

The first was that it might not hold together, and that its collapse would be painful for those involved. Opponents were sceptical that the EMS would save itself by bringing about economic convergence. On this score, they were proved right. Since 1979, inflation rates among the countries with lading currencies floating freely against each other – the United States, Japan, West Germany and Britain – have converged more than they have among EMS members. Nor, unfortunately, is there much proof that greater equality of exchange rates necessarily stabilize exchange rates – a quick look at the rate between the Swiss franc and the Deutschmark deflates that hopeful notion.

But if that were the only difficulty, it would long ago have been worth taking the risk of joining up. The EMS has in fact held together, because it has proved skillful at realigning currencies without fuss.

The bigger problem for Britain, however, is that membership of the EMS would not provide automatic entry to the milk-and-honey land of exchange rate stability. Last time the Foreign Office made a plea for entry, it was effectively spray-gunned down by a Treasury analysis showing that Britain's trade-weighted exchange rate would have been more volatile had sterling been inside the EMS.

An ideal currency correction for Britain now would be for sterling to go on rising against the dollar, while also falling against the Deutschmark, thus improving our competitive edge in Europe, and it would be folly to hook onto the Deutschmark through the EMS at just the moment when this might take place. Given the way the markets have behaved this past 13 years, however, there will come a moment when they stop correcting and start over-reacting. That should be the moment for all leading governments to try to break the cycle and impose greater exchange-rate stability vis-a-vis the dollar.

The EMS, in its so far limited role, has proved rather an effective mechanism for giving signals to the markets, which have listened more often than might have been expected. Taking the pound in, and the dollar on, would be a much greater test for European central banks and a particular risk for Britain. But the EMS is the only stable platform in a sea of floating currencies from which to begin the task.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

ORDINARY SHARES

Best bets in the leisure sector

Roy Owens and Bruce Jones

Perhaps more than in any other sector of the stock market, an investment in leisure needs to be made to a large extent on a stock-by-stock basis. This is because the leisure sector is, in fact, a number of sub-sectors with the underlying trading factors affecting one often being entirely different from those impacting on the others. The commercial television companies, for example, have performed very strongly in share price terms over the past 12 months on the back of continued buoyant advertising revenue, while by contrast the television rental groups have generally been disappointing. Those companies involved in hotels and gaming have tended to outperform the market as a whole over this period, but the share price performance of overseas package tour operators has been very mixed.

Buoyant trading

What about prospects for 1984? The overall scenario remains fairly encouraging with real disposable income likely to show a further modest rise, and there may well be some shift of consumers' expenditure away from domestic appliances and towards leisure services. Looking at the individual sub-sectors, prospects continue to be good for the television advertising companies with advertising revenue continuing to grow at a healthy level, costs under tight control and the initial negative impact of Channel 4 having now been felt. Developing areas like cable and satellites will inevitably have an adverse effect on ITV's audience levels in due course, but this is really a problem for the 1990s and, even then, the television contractors have tremendous opportunities to provide programmes to the

new media. Our favourite stocks in the sector are LWT, HTV and Television South.

Television rental companies have experienced very flat profitability over the past two years due to a decline in the colour television subscriber base (as a result of a switch by consumers to buying rather than renting) combined with extremely heavy investment in video recorders. Earnings are beginning to move up again in the current year as video profitability builds up, but no substantial growth is likely until at least 1985 and the rental companies will probably continue to turn in a dull share price performance. The hotel companies are enjoying buoyant trading conditions at present, particularly of course in London where American tourists have returned in force, but also now in some parts of the provinces. Occupancy levels are continuing to rise and achieved room rates are improving as the process of discounting declines. The ratings on stocks like Trusthouse Forte, Queens Mead and Mount Charlotte are, as always, not cheap but profits are moving up strongly at the moment. A good way of securing an interest in the hotel industry is to invest in Ladbroke Group, where the other

Growth potential

The London casino industry has experienced a strong increase in business levels since mid-1982, although this has to be seen in the context of a reduction in demand since the

Jubilee Year of 1977. The immediate outlook remains satisfactory (although there has been a rise in the supply position in recent months) and ratings in the sector continue to be undemanding. We would particularly recommend Plesurama, whose proposed acquisition of Associated Leisure looks a good move, and should result in an improvement in the investment rating of the combined group. The bid has, in fact, just been cleared by the Office of Fair Trading. Plesurama has a proven management ability, and excellent profits and substantial growth potential. Elsewhere, Trident Television is still good value on fundamental trading grounds and the current share price takes little account of the possibility of a bid, while Aspinall Holdings holds out the prospect of exciting developments by the management outside the casino industry. The holiday companies are perhaps not surprisingly given historic precedent, regarded with a certain amount of scepticism by the stock market. However, we believe that the strong companies in the industry, i.e., Thomson, Intasun, and Horizon, will continue to gain market share at the expense of the weaker operators in the future as a result of their better financial position and buying and marketing power. Bookings for summer 1984 are flowing in strongly at present – running at some 30-40 per cent up on the same period of last year – and although brochure prices have been cut, this will be more than offset by higher volume and aircraft load factors. Currency movements have also been generally favourable for the

operators and we would expect good profits growth during 1984 from both Horizon and Intasun. The leisure sector has also enjoyed its fair share of takeover action in recent months, both actual and rumoured e.g., Plesurama/Trident, Plesurama/Associated Leisure, and rumours about Management Agency and Music, and even Ladbroke Group. With many of the companies in the sector enjoying strong cash-flow generation but selling on relatively low ratings, further takeover news looks quite likely during the course of 1984. On a long-term view leisure as a concept is undoubtedly a growth area. However, great care has to be taken to select the right vehicles for investment. To quote just one example, video games (i.e. space invaders) in pubs appeared to most people back in 1979 to be a major long-term growth area but after an initial boom in the first nine months of 1980, the market suddenly collapsed in the autumn of that year, leaving many amusement machine operators with heavy losses.

Developing areas like cable and satellites will undoubtedly offer some good investment opportunities in the years ahead but caution is required and, generally speaking, potential investors would seem to have plenty of time yet to evaluate individual projects before committing funds in this direction. In summary, we believe prospects for the leisure sector remain encouraging. Our ideal portfolio at present would consist of Ladbroke Group (228p), LWT (229p), Plesurama (386p), and Intasun (181p), providing a good spread of investment throughout the sector.

The writers are Leisure analysts at Kiteat & Aitken.

American banks issue stern warning on Argentine loans

By John Lawless

Argentine finance officials will be warned at a meeting in New York on Wednesday that loans made by more than 100 American banks are close to being declared "non-performing".

It would be the first time that American banks have been forced to take such drastic action over a sovereign debt. American banking laws demand such a move when any borrower has failed to keep interest payments up to date within 90 days.

The Argentines have not made any payments of principal or interest on loans to all international banks, including the British, since October 13.

They have total foreign debts to banks and governments of \$43 billion (£29 billion), and their total interest bill is

between \$4 billion and \$4.5 billion.

The American banks avoided bringing the issue into the open when they published their last quarterly balance sheets, on December 31, only because the Argentines were still within the 90 days.

They will have to report them as non-performing, on March 31 and make provision for the outstanding amounts from their reserves.

Beyond the effect on shareholders, the banks are concerned about the damaging effect on the international finance community's confidence in South America.

Although many American regional banks have made loans to Argentina, those thought to have lent most are Citibank, Chase Manhattan, Bank of

America, Morgan Guaranty and Manufacturers Hanover.

Meanwhile, Brazil, having belatedly gained a \$6.5 billion new money loan in January, decided to take the first \$3 billion in three equal parts on March 9, 16 and 23 because it could not risk pushing up interest rates by taking the whole loan at once. As it is, most of that money will pay off its own arrears due from mid-October last year.

The Brazilians came close to making American banks declare their loans non-performing in December. But bankers are full of praise for the way in which they used trade receipts to bring payments up to date. In some cases, the cost being covered by the 90-day period by just two days, knowing that the \$6.5 billion loan negotiations would

have probably collapsed had they not.

The bankers are concerned that Argentina, which ran a trade surplus last year, could make payments, but is unwilling to talk seriously about its debts.

Two previous meetings between the 11-member Argentine Bank Advisory Committee have failed to produce the sort of figures, especially about foreign exchange reserves, that would allow progress towards either a rescheduling or a new loan.

The meeting, to be held at Citibank's office, will be chaired by the bank's senior vice-president, Mr William Rhodes, who is also chairman of the Peruvian, Mexican, Brazilian, and Uruguayan advisory committees.

TUC boycott will hit job talks

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The TUC's boycott of Wednesday's National Economic Development Council will curtail a tripartite attempt to tackle the problem of new jobs in Britain.

The TUC decided last week to boycott the NEDC meeting after the row with the Government over trade union representation at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham.

This week's NEDC meeting was intended to give the Government, the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC a fresh chance to reinforce the mood of conciliation on the economy which emerged at December's NEDC meeting after the Treasury produced a study of job prospects.

The meeting will be presented with a new paper exploring employment trends over two decades in the United States.



Sir Keith: urged to train more engineers.

Europe (including Britain) and Japan. It had been hoped that a factual analysis would have been a springboard for constructive debate.

The absence of TUC representatives could result in the meeting, which is being chaired

by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, merely noting the report and setting it on one side until the TUC decides to return to the NEDC meetings.

But the meeting will also be invited to step into the growing controversy over the direction of Britain's higher education, especially in relation to engineering and the problems of improving Britain's manufacturing performance.

A Department of Education paper will discuss higher education and the needs of the economy and a Department of Trade and Industry paper will look into education for professional engineers.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, has already called for a swing to technology in universities and other academic institutions. But last week he came under new pressure from the Engineering Council to direct more funds for engineering places.

GEC set to win China contracts

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

GEC will submit its detailed bid on March 15 to supply the generating equipment for a nuclear power station to be built by China, near Hongkong. Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank, has arranged a financial package for the supply of the generating plant, with 80 per cent of the cost being covered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The plant, which will send 70 per cent of its output to Hongkong, will incorporate largely French nuclear technology. GEC is likely to win the contracts for the two 900k generating sets for the station.

The total cost of the project is estimated at HK\$36 billion (£3.2 billion).

Hongkong's larger power company, China Light and Power, which presently supplies electricity to mainland China, has contracted to take electricity from the station and provide help in arranging loans.

The other Hongkong power company, Hong Kong Electric Holdings, has withdrawn from the project and is to build a conventional coal-fired power station in Hongkong.

British industry could also win large export orders from Hong Kong Electric Holdings for the proposed coal-fired station at Lamm Island, within the colony.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yard suitor and unions meet today

Howard Doris, the Anglo-French rig builder, meets Scott Lithgow unions today, and representatives of Britoil, which has an unfinished oil rig at the yard, later this week, in an attempt to take over the yard.

Last week Bechtel, the US construction group, withdrew from the bidding for Scott Lithgow, leaving Howard Doris and Trafalgar House to compete for control of the yard, which is threatened with closure if the negotiations collapse.

Nigeria will formally request a higher production quota from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries when the group's market monitoring committee meets in Vienna next Friday, according to government and oil industry sources in Lagos.

The European Commission has been asked by the European Association of Electronic Type-writer Manufacturers to take measures against unfair dumping practices by several Japanese producers.

Tax allowances may rise

By Our City Staff

A number of City economists are expecting the Chancellor to raise personal income tax allowances by more than the rate of inflation in what is universally expected to be a "neutral" Budget on March 13.

Mr Nigel Lawson, meanwhile, is expected to publish shortly a consultative Green Paper setting out some of what the Treasury regards as the inexorable long-term pressures

on public spending over the next decade.

The latest batch of pre-Budget forecasts from stockbrokers, Phillips & Drew does not expect Mr Lawson to be generous despite the recent encouraging signals such as falling inflation and rising employment. It is planning for a 1984/5 public sector borrowing of £7,500m, with likely real increases in personal tax allow-

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES CO, WATLING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 3AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH MARCH 1984, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR OF THE GLENFARROW AGENCY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH 1984.

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This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised to receive tenders for £1,250,000,000 of the above Stock: the balance of £250,000,000 has been reserved for the National Debt Commissioners for public sale under their management.

The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Stock will be repaid at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on 1st February and 1st August. Income tax will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. The first interest payment will be made on 1st August 1984 at the rate of £3.2184 per £100 of the Stock.

Tenders must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues Co, Watling Street, London, EC4M 3AA, not later than 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH MARCH 1984, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glenfarrow Agency of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH 1984. Tenders must be in the form of a tender for the Stock to be issued on Wednesday, 7th March 1984 and 10.00 A.M. on Monday, 12th March 1984.

Each tender must be for a minimum amount and at one price. The minimum price, below the minimum price of £98.00 per cent, will be £97.00 per cent. Tenders must be made at the minimum price or at higher prices which are multiples of 25p. Tenders lodged without a price being stated will be deemed to have been made at the minimum price.

A separate cheque representing a deposit of £40.00 for every £100 of the nominal amount of Stock tendered for must accompany each tender; the cheques must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom; the cheques must be for a minimum of £100 Stock and for multiples of Stock as follows:

Amount of Stock tendered for Multiple

£100-£1,000 100

£1,000-£2,000 200

£2,000-£10,000 2,000

£10,000-£50,000 20,000

£50,000 or greater 250,000

Her Majesty's Treasury reserve the right to reject any tender or part of any tender and may therefore allot tenders less than the full amount of the Stock. Tenders will be ranked in descending order of price and allotments will be made to tenders whose prices are at or above the lowest price tendered, which will not be less than the minimum tender price. All allotments will be made at the allotment price; tenders which are accepted and which are not allotted a price may be allotted in full or in part only. Any balance of Stock not allotted to tenders will be allotted at the allotment price to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, as agent.

Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted, being the only form in which the Stock may be transferred prior to redemption, will be sent to the tenderer by post at the risk of the tenderer, but the deposit of any letter of allotment, and any refund of the balance of the amount paid as deposit, may at the discretion of the Bank of England be withheld until the tenderer's cheque has been paid, in the event of such withholding, the tenderer will be entitled to the balance of the amount of the Stock allotted to him, and to the payment of his cheque, but such notification will confer no right on the tenderer to transfer the Stock so allotted.

No allotment will be made for a less amount than £100 Stock. In the event of partial allotment, the balance of the amount paid as deposit will, when refunded, be returned by cheque dispatched by post at the risk of the tenderer: if no allotment is made the amount paid as deposit will be returned likewise. Payment in full may be made at any time after allotment but no amount will be allowed on such payment. Interest may be charged on the day-to-day basis on any overpayment amount which may be accepted at a rate equal to the London Interbank Offered Rate for seven day deposits in sterling ("LIBOR") plus 1 per cent per annum. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations, on the date for the return payment, for LIBOR obtained from such source as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate. Default in due payment of any amount in respect of the Stock will render the allotment of such Stock liable to cancellation and any amount previously paid liable to forfeiture.

Letters of allotment may be sent to destinations of tenders of £100 or written request to the Bank of England, New Issues Co, Watling Street, London, EC4M 3AA on any business day not later than 10.00 A.M. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment (which cannot be sent if any payment is withheld).

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the balance of the purchase money is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date, in which case they must be surrendered for registration not later than 14th May 1984.

Until the close of business on 27th June 1984, Stock issued in accordance with this prospectus will be known as 10 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989 "A". The interest due on 1st August 1984 will be paid separately on holdings of the existing 10 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989 and on holdings of "A" Stock as at the close of business on 27th June 1984. Consequently, interest on new allotments, authorities for income tax exemption and other notifications related to holdings of "A" Stock will not be applied to the payment of interest due on 1st August 1984 on holdings of "A" Stock.

The last date for lodgment at the Bank of England of tenders for registration as "A" Stock will be 28th June 1984. After this date, for purposes of certification, the "A" Stock will not be distinguished from the existing 10 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989. From the opening of business on 28th June 1984, the "A" Stock will be amalgamated with the existing Stock.

Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues Co, Watling Street, London, EC4M 3AA, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glenfarrow Agency of the Bank of England, 26 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2BB; at the Bank of Ireland, Moynihan Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 3BN; at Messrs A & Co., 18 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AN; or at any office of The Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
2nd March 1984

THIS FORM MAY BE USED

This form must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues Co, Watling Street, London, EC4M 3AA, not later than 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH MARCH 1984, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glenfarrow Agency of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH 1984.

ISSUE OF £1,250,000,000

10 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989

MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £98.00 PER CENT

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

I/we tender in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated 2nd March 1984 as follows:

Amount of above-mentioned Stock tendered for, being a minimum of £100 and in a multiple as follows:-

1. NOMINAL AMOUNT OF STOCK

£

2. AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT (a)

£

3. TENDER PRICE (b)

£ : p

The price tendered per £100 Stock, being a multiple of 25p and not less than the minimum tender price of £98.00:-

I/we hereby engage to pay the instalments as they shall become due on any allotment that may be made in respect of this tender, as provided by the said prospectus.

I/we request that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock allotted to me/us be sent by post at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below:-

SIGNATURE

of, or on behalf of, tenderer

March 1984

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

MR/MRS/MISS FORENAMES IN FULL SURNAME

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS:-

POST-TOWN COUNTY POSTCODE

A separate cheque must accompany every tender and must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom; the cheques must be for a minimum of £100 and in a multiple as follows:-

Amount of Stock tendered for Multiple

£100-£1,000 100

£1,000-£2,000 200

£2,000-£10,000 2,000

£10,000-£50,000 20,000

£50,000 or greater 250,000

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 27. Dealings End, March 9. \S Contango Day, March 12. Settlement Day, March 13.
 \S Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.
 (Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

When you're building up your own business, the last thing you need is a nervous investor.



Even the healthiest business can suffer at the hands of a timid investor.

His concern for his own skin could prove fatal for a growing company.

But there's one investor you can rely on for wholehearted support. ICFC.

We're part of the 3i group and we're the world's largest source of risk capital for small to medium sized businesses.

We also go out of our way to do what's best for them.

That's why, out of the 7,000 financial packages we've provided since 1945, no two have been identical. What you'll get is a solution tailor-made to promote sturdiest growth.

And the security of knowing that although all our solutions may be different, one thing always remains constant.

Our commitment.



ICFC, 91 WATERLOO ROAD, LONDON SE1 8XP. TEL: 01-928 7822. ABERDEEN 0224 636666, BIRMINGHAM 021-236 9531, BRIGHTON 0273 23164, BRISTOL 0272 277412, CAMBRIDGE 0223 316568, CARDIFF 0222 34021, EDINBURGH 031-226 7092, GLASGOW 041-248 4456, LEEDS 0532 430511, LEICESTER 0533 25223, LIVERPOOL 051-236 2944, MANCHESTER 061-833 9511, NEWCASTLE 0632 815221, NOTTINGHAM 0602 412766, READING 0734 861943, SHEFFIELD 0742 680571, SOUTHAMPTON 0703 32044.

هكذا من الأصل

La crème de la crème

BI-LINGUAL CONSULTANT

We don't just mean 'Have you a second European language?' although that is important. We are growing as fast as we need another consultant to deal with the exciting, non-stop activity of finding the right secretaries for the right jobs throughout London and the rest of the world wherever a language skill is needed. Could you really communicate with top employers as you discover their needs and market our services? Could you interview and understand ambitious secretaries? Are you ambitious yourself? Can you make your own decisions? Are you worth a good salary and generous bonus? If you have answered yes to all of these questions and are aged around 30, this is an opportunity you should not miss.

Rina Mandy Raver
International Secretaries
A job to find a better

A SENIOR OPPORTUNITY

In £18,000 per annum. An international firm of management consultants seeks a senior secretary to assist in the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company.

PROSPECTS IN PR
Forget shorthand, it's not needed in this job. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18 Grosvenor Street London W1
Telephone 01-499 8070

ANTIQUES AND FASHION

Must be whizz at organising and possess excellent administration skills.

FILM PRODUCTION
P.A./SEC. £22,000-£27,000
Assistant Producer and Director in busy Production Co.

TV STATION
YOUNG SEC. £22,000-£27,000
Excellent opportunity to enter the world of TV with major TV Station.

"Nobody will look after you the way we do"

Pathfinders
Recruitment Services
020 3132

2nd JOB WITH POTENTIAL

If you are looking for a real challenge and have lots of energy and initiative we have a super job for you. Working as Personal Assistant to a French Adviser in ECU, you will have your own office, desk, telephone, and responsibility for all clients, and be responsible for general office administration. Age 25-35. Salary £23,000 after 1 year.

Crone Corhill
Recruitment Consultants
020 3132

LLOYD'S UNDERWRITING AGENCY

Director of Member's Agency requires PA/Secretary no shorthand, good typing necessary. Must be well presented with pleasant telephone manner. Experience in Lloyd's an advantage, but not essential. Salary and benefits by negotiation.

Apply in strictest confidence to Box 24324 The Times

£9,000 + PERKS

Confidential Sec/PA to world-wide interests. Small London office. Flexible approach with excellent salary and benefits. Must be well presented with pleasant telephone manner. Experience in Lloyd's an advantage, but not essential. Salary and benefits by negotiation.

Apply in strictest confidence to Box 24324 The Times

BILINGUAL SECRETARY

Major international company, based in the West End, requires a presentable, well-spoken Secretary with creative flair to provide a back-up to the Commercial Development Manager. Good typing and organisational skills essential with reasonable shorthand. Salary £7,200.

Please telephone 734 4284

Career plan

17 Air Street (New Centre)
We are looking for first-class secretaries to join our team. Salary to £8,500. Telephone box for more details.

"TRAT AGENCY"
47 Abchurch Lane
01-499 4562
Recruitment Consultants

RIGHT-HAND £8,500

To the MD of this American based company you will provide a complete back-up. Must be a good typist, well presented, and have a good knowledge of the company. Salary to £8,500. Telephone box for more details.

Apply in strictest confidence to Box 24324 The Times

SLOANE SQUARE

£9,000

A well educated and lovely young Secretary is needed by this small and exclusive consultancy. In addition to normal secretarial duties you will be able to assist in some basic research and be required to use your word processor. Age 21 to 25. Speeds 100/60 + audio.

COBOLD AND DAVIS RECRUITMENT LIMITED
35 Bruton Place, London, W1.
Telephone: 01-493 7789

2nd JOBBERS

BANKING c £7,000

Two young Secretary/PAs are required for the City to work in US Investment Banking. The ideal applicants should be educated to 'A' level standard, enjoy working in a fast moving environment and have at least 6 months commercial experience. Age 21+. Speeds 90/60 + audio.

CDR

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

c. £6,500-£9,000

Are you a confident young Secretary with good skills and experience looking for a permanent or temporary job? If so, why not telephone us? West End City clients include Property Co's, Publishers, Headhunters, Advertising Agencies, Magazines, Art Galleries, PR Co's, Interior Designers, Merchant Banks, Finance Houses and Brokers.

Gordon Yates Ltd
35 Old Bond St, W1
01-493 5787
(Rec Cons)

SECRETARIAL SUPERVISOR

c. £9,000

Our client is an international company with a prestigious London based office. You will supervise a small team of secretaries and be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company.

MacBlain
Recruitment Consultants
18 Hanover Square London W1

TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

You could be working tomorrow and throughout the winter, spring and summer!

Join a top class temporary team working in some of the best companies in London, and enjoy the benefits of top rates plus the chance of a permanent job if you wish.

Phone now for details
499 9175
MacBlain
Recruitment Consultants
18 Hanover Square London W1

SEC/PA

TO ADVERTISING MANAGER

Lively position in leading City based Bank for organised, well presented person with good Agency related experience.

Age 23 years +.
Salary £8,000 + benefits.
No Agencies
Contact Lucy Blake/Alex Wesley
01-496 7011

SECRETARY / P.A.

(Pref with German)
£8,000 use (review after 6 months)

Swiss Insurance Company seeks a Secretary/PA for the Manager (Swiss) of their small contact office in the City.

Applicants must enjoy working on their own, should be good organisers, numerate and have a flexible attitude.

Please apply with full CV to:
International Risk Service Centre, Plantation House,
Section A, 4th Floor, 235 Fincham Road,
London EC3M 7HA.
(No agencies please)

FOOD & WINE

Bilingual £7,000

A young, go-ahead Secretary is needed to join an energetic, expanding team marketing Spanish food and wine. Excellent salary (£7,000), a working knowledge of business Spanish and the ability to work on own initiative are essential ingredients but above all a pleasant personality and willingness to assist at all times are as important.

Age 23-25. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd
35 Old Bond St, W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

TV CO

£7,000 - £7,500

The American MD of this friendly US company in W1 is looking for an audio secretary with initiative, an eye for detail and a good telephone manner. There is lots of contact with clients in the UK and Europe. No shorthand. Age 21+.

Bernadette
of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
85, (next door to) Fenchurch St.
01-429 1284

INTERVIEWER

We need another Interviewer for our excellent team. Some SH and will interview with a good telephone manner. Specialist in permanent and temporary recruitment for the entertainment and media industries. Experience in a similar role is essential. Salary £7,000 + benefits. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

21 Beauchamp Place SW3
Tel: 01-581 2977

2nd JOBBERS

PR - £7,500

Our client, a friendly financial Public Relations Company in the City, is looking for a vivacious, yet professional person with good typing skills (50 wpm) and shorthand preferred to join their hard working team. For further details please contact Sarah Motion on 01-581 2947.

21 Beauchamp Place SW3
Tel: 01-581 2977

EMPATY IN APRIL

£9,500 neg

A challenge is offered to an Executive Secretary in the shape of a new banking venture opening in the City in April. If you have normal shorthand/typing skills and both personal and banking experience this start up situation could be an interesting opportunity. Age 35-45. Substantive salary. Tel: 377 8600 City 438 7001 West End

Secretaries Plus
The Secretaries' Consultants

Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Require an efficient and experienced SECRETARY

to work for the Director of their Art and Illustrated Books Department in modern offices close to Clapham North tube station.

Salary: According to age and experience.

Please forward CV to:
MISS JULIE HAMMOND,
WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON,
91 CLAPHAM HIGH STREET,
LONDON, SW4 7TA.

TOP CALIBRE SECRETARIES

required for challenging and interesting assignments with major companies in London. We have work available now right through to December. Inquire to:

International Secretaries
Recruitment Consultants
01-491 7100

KINGSWAY

temporary staff consultants

Number One Kingsway London WC2B 6AG
Telephone: 01-583 7272

FAST MOVING ENTERTAINMENT CO

Research Director (DR) needs an immediate PA for a fast moving company. Excellent salary and benefits. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

AUDIO SECRETARY

£2,000 - £2,500

Excellent opportunity to assist in the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

BRIGHT JUNIOR SECRETARIES

Excellent openings for College Leavers. Good secretaries with good shorthand and typing skills. Salary £2,000 - £2,500. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

ART CONSULTANT IN KNIGHTSBIDGE

We require a Secretary to assist in the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company.

TEMP TO PERM SEC/PA £9,000+

The excellent temp to perm opportunity for a Sec in a major financial company is setting up offices in London. Top salary for your 12/60 sec skills and WP experience. Since to use your languages - French, German and Italian. This is a stimulating career position involving travel and lots of PA duties. If you have a current clean driving licence, let your personality and personal appearance shine through. Call Helene Percot-Day.

PA MAYFAIR
Fast growing company in pleasant offices need you temp/perm to handle Gen Mgr's day to day work. Organise travel and accommodation, office relocation etc. Your fast typing and shorthand skills, French, German and Italian experience will assist you in the smooth running of your busy day. Excellent salary plus fringe benefits for permanent staff. To discuss this interesting opportunity, call Helene Percot-Day.

SEC-DESIGN £7,500+
Your French, German or Italian will be an advantage in your duties as Sec in an American design team. Temp to perm opportunity to work with a top design team. Excellent salary plus fringe benefits for permanent staff. To discuss this interesting opportunity, call Helene Percot-Day.

OFFICE OVERLORD
01-229 8244

CONVEYANCING SECRETARY

required for Partner in international firm of lawyers in Aldwych area.

The successful applicant will have good practical conveyancing experience, preferably commercial, fast shorthand and accurate typing. Training will be given on Olivetti 1010 + word processing equipment. Age range is 25-35.

Salary £6,800 + £3.75 L.V.s p.w.
Call Vicki Reynolds on 01-242 6531

PR SECRETARY

Busy PR Consultancy off Jermyn St requires Secretary 23+. Candidate requires initiative, willingness to take on a lot of responsibility and boundless enthusiasm as well as excellent sh/typing. Salary on application.

Tel. GILLY WIGFALL on 930 6711
for immediate interview (no agencies).

Have you got style?

Being a small Secretarial agency we have many clients from the secretarial world who are looking for Secretaries (SH/Sec) to work for them who have style, initiative and a good telephone manner. If you fit the bill, Ring us now.

London Town Staff Bureau
836 1994

LEISURE GROUP

Thriving Hotel and Catering Group are looking for office staff for new positions in W1, W2, W3 and W4. PA/Secretary to Director, age 20-35, good sh/typing, good telephone manner, and a good telephone manner. There is lots of contact with clients in the UK and Europe. No shorthand. Age 21+.

Susan Beck
Recruitment Consultants
10 Beauchamp Place SW3 01-581 2977

MAYFAIR PROPERTY COMPANY

Bright, young Secretary (2nd Job) required to assist PA to Financial Director and Company Secretary. Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

SENIOR SECRETARY

35 to 50 years for Managing Director. Small friendly office. Good salary and benefits. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

MARKETING PA

£7,000+ Fares paid

Three in this fast moving marketing firm, when you start the MD of the company. Excellent salary and benefits. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

THINKING OF TEMPING THIS SPRING AND SUMMER?

We presently have assignments available, all over the London area, for

Audios, Telex Operators, Copy Typists, Telephonists and Shorthand Secretaries. Both the quantity and quality of these assignments looks set to continue right through the summer.

Call Angela Buckley on 01-439 8311
for further details

ST PAULS EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

GRADUATE SECRETARY £8500 + LV's

Research Director (DR) needs an immediate PA for a fast moving company. Excellent salary and benefits. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

ARCHITECT'S SECRETARY

City practice requires experienced Secretary to complete small administrative tasks for architect. Salary £5,000 negotiable.

Please telephone
Cassandra Jameson
01-226 9191

INTERESTED IN THE ARTS?

There is a demanding post as Personal Secretary to the Director of the National Art Collections Fund. If you consider yourself sufficiently experienced to handle the day-to-day running of the company, please send your CV to:

St Peter Wakefield
NACF
20 John Islip Street
London SW1P 4AL
01-521 0404

PERSONNEL OFFICER

£10,000+ benefits

Experienced up to 10 years in Personnel Management. Excellent salary and benefits. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

Call 439 8287 Penny Scott.
ABC Recruitment

University Appointments

Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom

Assistant Secretary (Salaries and Industrial Relations)

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom invites applications for the above appointment which will be made in October 1984.

The post carries responsibility for servicing salaries negotiating committees and an industrial relations advisory service to universities. Some 100,000 people within the universities are covered by the various agreements. The person appointed will be Secretary of the Universities Committee for Non-teaching Staffs, the University Authorities Panel (the body concerned with non-clinical academic and related staff) and the management side of the Clinical Academic Staff Salaries Committee, and also undertake relevant work as Assistant Secretary of the Vice-Chancellors Committee.

Applicants should have a wide knowledge of salaries negotiation and industrial relations work, and experience of the formulation of long-term policies in this field.

The post is supernumerary under the Universities Superannuation Scheme and will carry a salary of not less than £23,000 per annum including a London Allowance.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from the Secretary General of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals at 29 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EZ, to whom applications should be made by not later than 11 April 1984.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
(University of London)

QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE CHELSEA COLLEGE
Department of Classics
LECTURESHIP IN ANCIENT HISTORY

Applications are invited for the above post, for appointment from 1 October 1984. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in the Roman Republic (including the Empire) and a knowledge of the Greek world.

Salary on the scale £7,190 to £14,125 per annum plus £1,186 per annum London Allowance. It is hoped to make the initial appointment within the range £7,190 to £9,425.

Applicants should send three copies of their curriculum vitae, including a list of references, to the Secretary General of the University of London, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS (Tel 01-836 5454 ext 2689). Applications should be submitted in triplicate with the name of two referees as soon as possible, and not later than 25 March 1984.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from recent graduates with a good honours degree in electrical or electronic engineering or a related discipline, for postgraduate research in one of the following fields:

- (i) Computer modelling and C.A.D. including semiconductor devices, systems and computer-aided design.
- (ii) Sensors for industrial and medical applications, including ultrasonic and optical sensors.
- (iii) Microprocessor applications and microelectronic aids, including software and hardware.
- (iv) Industrial electronics and power electronics.

S.R.C. studentships and other financial support are available. Applications should be made to:

Professor C.W. Turner
Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering,
King's College London, Strand, London,
WC2R 2LS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX ADMINISTRATION

Appointments are invited from qualified men and women for two temporary posts in the Administration of the University. The posts, which will be full-time and for three years in the first instance starting as soon as possible or in the summer, are suitable for persons wishing to obtain initial experience of administrative work in higher education. Initially one post is likely to be concerned with press and other media relations and with publications including the internal newspaper and prospectus and the other with student administration. Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification.

Salary scale: In the lower part of grade 1A of the national scale for administrative staff £5,310-£11,618 per annum plus £1,095.

Send well addressed envelope (5p) for further particulars and application form to Mrs L. Vivian, Personnel Office, Sussex House, The University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RQ, to whom application should be submitted not later than 30th March 1984.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Centre for Computing and Computer Science
Chair of Computer Science

Applications are invited for a new Chair of Computer Science which will become available from 1 October 1984. The appointment is intended to strengthen the research base of the Centre. Preference may be given to candidates with an established research record in one or more of the areas of Software Engineering, Man, Machine Interaction, Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems and Communications. Academic or appropriate industrial experience will be considered.

Salary in the professional range, with superannuation.

Further particulars available from the Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT, to whom applications (15 copies) from overseas applicants should be sent by 27 April 1984.

The University of Manchester
LECTURESHIP IN RUSSIAN STUDIES

Applications are invited for the above post, tenable from October 1984. The successful candidate will be expected primarily to teach the History of the Russian Language and the Contemporary Russian Language. An ability to teach Comparative Slavonic Philology and 19th Century Russian thought would be an advantage. Initial salary will be within the first four points (£7,190 - £8,530) of the scale for non-clinical academics (£7,190 - £14,125) plus superannuation.

Further particulars and application forms (returnable by April 27th) from the Registrar, The University of Manchester, M13 9PL. Quote ref 49/84/T.

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD
LECTURESHIP IN ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

Applications are invited from well-qualified candidates for an established post of Lecturer in Engineering Mathematics. In addition to undergraduate teaching the successful candidate will be expected to be active in research. Experience in control theory, applied linear algebra including numerical aspects, or applied analysis including variational methods, would be particularly relevant. Salary on scale £7,190-£14,125 p.a. plus superannuation benefits.

Further particulars and application forms to be received by 9 April 1984, may be obtained from Personnel Secretary, (Ref: EN1/LT), University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DT.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
LECTURESHIP IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Physical Geography, tenable from 1 October 1984. Preference will be given to candidates with field experience and expertise in the physical geography of non-temperate areas, and who can contribute to undergraduate teaching of resource evaluation and quantitative analysis, initial salary in the range £7,190 - £14,125 p.a. plus superannuation benefits.

Expected age of candidates not over 37, but older candidates not precluded. Particulars from the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, to whom applications (5 copies), including the names of three referees, should be sent by 13 April 1984. Quote ref: RA/A.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the above department, commencing on 1st January 1984. Candidates should have a good honours degree and a knowledge of digital electronics, experience of software and/or of the application of digital electronics in fields such as communications, computing, control, power electronics, etc. would be an advantage. Salary in the range £7,190 to £14,125 per annum.

Expected age of candidates not over 37, but older candidates not precluded. Particulars from the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, to whom applications (5 copies), including the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent by 7 April 1984. Quote ref: A2/A.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
SECRETARY TO THE CAREERS & APPOINTMENTS SERVICE

Applications are invited for the above post. Candidates should be graduates with good experience of careers advisory work or in business or clerical, appropriate to the duties of the post. The post will fall vacant on the retirement of Mr B J Holloway in September 1984. Duties involve the management and development of the Service, helping students and graduates of the University, and maintaining good relations with outside organisations. Salary within range for Administrative Staff Grade IV (minimum £17,276 p.a.). Further particulars from the Registrar, The University of Manchester, M13 9PL, to whom applications should be received by March 30th. Please quote ref 80/84/T.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
CHAIR OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE

Applications are invited for the Chair of Community Medicine which will fall vacant on the retirement of Professor J. Knowlton, CBE, in September 1984. Successful candidates will be expected to be active in research. Experience in control theory, applied linear algebra including numerical aspects, or applied analysis including variational methods, would be particularly relevant. Salary on scale £7,190-£14,125 p.a. plus superannuation benefits.

Further particulars and application forms to be received by 9 April 1984, may be obtained from Personnel Secretary, (Ref: EN1/LT), University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DT.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the above department, commencing on 1st January 1984. Candidates should have a good honours degree and a knowledge of digital electronics, experience of software and/or of the application of digital electronics in fields such as communications, computing, control, power electronics, etc. would be an advantage. Salary in the range £7,190 to £14,125 per annum.

Expected age of candidates not over 37, but older candidates not precluded. Particulars from the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, to whom applications (5 copies), including the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent by 7 April 1984. Quote ref: A2/A.

A career as a professional engineer has many attractions. Engineers have in common that the eventual outcome of their work is nearly always something tangible whether it is an aeroplane or a micro-chip, a suspension bridge or an oil refinery. They are responsible for the design, development and manufacture of most of the consumer products we see about us and take so much for granted.

Successful engineers are not simply "backroom boys" beavering away in their workshops, drawing offices or laboratories. They are called upon to coordinate the work of others bringing together technology, men and materials, planning and scheduling, organizing and negotiating, costing and putting forward clear well documented proposals. Although few are concerned with all these activities most engineers are involved in some of them. These activities demand qualities of tact and diplomacy, analysis and logic, financial acumen and commercial awareness in addition to an in depth knowledge of modern engineering.

Setting standards

The Engineering Council was given its charter in 1981 to advance education in and promote the principles and practice of engineering. It is now responsible for the registration of professional engineers and for this purpose sets the standards of education, training and experience which are required of those who wish to reach the status of chartered engineer. A recently published discussion document suggests raising these standards by making the degree of Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) the basic academic requirement for professional engineers and lower qualifications of BTEC Higher National Certificate and Ordinary National Certificate respectively for technician engineers and engineering technicians.

The education of graduate engineers is achieved through degree courses in the mainstream engineering disciplines of electrical, electronic, mechanical, civil, chemical, production and aeronautical engineering and mining. The engineering institutions, 53 of which have recently been nominated to the Engineering Council, cover a much greater span of activity and include municipal, lighting, gas and marine engineers, metallurgists and naval architects.

It takes at least seven years to achieve the status of chartered engineer. In addition to the requirement for an accredited degree or equivalent qualification, engineers must also undergo two years of training, spend two years in a responsible job and reach the minimum age of 25 years old before they can reach the required level of competence.

Neil Harris reports on the variety of a professional career in engineering

The precise training requirements vary considerably from one engineering institution to another. Generally, however, they include first gaining an in-depth understanding of tools, materials and processes and subsequently applying this knowledge to the processes themselves. This may include experience of assembly or construction, the operation and maintenance of equipment or quality control. The aim is not to give professional engineers the proficiency of a craftsman in these tasks, but rather to ensure that they appreciate the problems which can arise. Detailed experience in a design department is also insisted upon by most of the institutions. Other modules in the training period usually include some experiences which give the young engineer an appreciation of the commercial aspects of the business. Safety is a matter of prime importance and here engineers are required to know the statutory requirement as they affect their particular engineering discipline.

Many engineering undergraduates are sponsored by employers through their university courses. When this happens they often gain industrial experience before entry to higher education and their studies are interspersed with industrial training. These naturally require less formal training after graduation than other graduates but need objective training designed to fit them for their first professional role. All engineers are required to have been in an appointment which carries professional responsibility for a period before they are granted the status of Chartered Engineer.

What do engineers do? They are to be found working within, and across, departments of manufacturing companies. Today research and development in engineering is usually carried out by multi-disciplinary teams of engineers and scientists. Large, intricate or costly products are often designed by computer-assisted simulation techniques and technical drawings can be created with ease on visual display units. Designers are concerned with the most economic way of making a product and the availability and cost of components. Development of research ideas into products which are capable of mass production entail the consideration of safety as well as the simplest and most economical production methods.

Engineers are not merely employed on the items to be produced, but also the means of production. Production engineering and process control using modern technology is an increasingly important area of work. Quality assurance and testing of the product is another in which it may be necessary

to devise advanced diagnostic equipment to examine adequately the working functions of an advanced product.

Equipment and instrumentation must often be field tested, installed on customers' premises, commissioned and adequately maintained, all of which require the expertise of engineers. Such work can require a considerable amount of travel, which some engineers find an enjoyable facet of their work. Other industrial jobs include technical writing and design work. Procurement and sales attracts some engineers and firms marketing the products of high technology often seek engineers with an aptitude for sales who can quickly appreciate the intricacies of the product and promote it from detailed knowledge of its manufacture. Similarly, in the procurement of parts and raw materials it can be useful to employ an engineer with an understanding of what is being bought.

That is not to say that a commercial awareness is not vital in the recruit but rather that a broad engineering knowledge is sometimes recognized to be advantageous in these areas of employment.

Industry is far from the sole employer of engineers. They are also to be found in coal, electricity, water, gas and transport undertakings, working for local authorities, the Civil Service and the armed forces. Many find their way into engineering consultancy practices. This is particularly true of civil engineers and those in the petrochemical contracting business. These engineers assist their clients to specify what is required, carry out feasibility studies and

Travel part of the job

detailed design work, then engage sub-contractors to construct the plant, building or other structure. This involves liaison with customers and contractors and because consultants bid for work on a worldwide basis, international travel may be an essential part of the job.

The year 1984 has been designated as the year for Women in Science and Engineering (WISE). Far too few girls understand the attraction of an engineering career.

About 7 per cent of university graduates in engineering are now women and employers, far from shunning them, find them excellent recruits. The numbers of engineering graduates leaving our universities will begin to fall in 1985 following the education cuts of the last few years. Already there are more vacancies for electrical and electronic engineers, control engineers, and in software development and engineering than can possibly be covered by this year's output, and if the level of economic activity marginally increases the demand will quickly exceed the supply.

HORIZONS
The Times guide to career choice

Backroom boys up front

Neil Harris reports on the variety of a professional career in engineering

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Danes Hill School,
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Oxshot, Surrey KT22 0J6

University of Oxford

St Peter's College

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN THE HISTORY OF ART

The College proposes to elect a Junior Research Fellow for a period of two years from 1 October 1984 to 30 September 1986. For further particulars apply to the College Secretary, St Peter's College, Oxford, OX1 2DL.

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WELLINGBOROUGH SCHOOL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Applications are invited from ordained clergy of the Church of England for the responsibility from next April or September of the spiritual and pastoral care of 650 pupils, boys and girls, 8-18.

This is a challenging post for a clergyman interested in working with young people for a few years, being responsible for R.E. teaching throughout the school and prepared to assist with sport or extra-curricular activities. Salary is Barnham Scale. There is opportunity also for house tutoring in a boys' boarding house.

The School has a fine chapel (1908), a tradition of daily worship and close contacts with neighbouring parishes and the diocese. Applications with full C.V. and the names of two referees should be sent to: The Headmaster, Wellingborough School, NN8 2BX.

Closing date for applications is 2nd April 1984.

SHERBORNE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Governors invite applications for appointment as

HEAD

Miss Elizabeth Conder will retire at the end of the Summer Term 1984 and her successor will assume office on 1st September 1984. The Governors hope to make an appointment in July this year.

For information about the school and the appointment please apply to the Clerk to the Governors, The Abbey Close, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 2LH. Closing date for applications is 2nd April 1984.

Merchant Taylors' School

NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX, HA6 2HT.

Telephone: Northwood 21850

It has been decided to augment the Common Room by three members. Applications are invited from:

A teacher of GEOGRAPHY and ECONOMICS.

A qualified LIBRARIAN who would also be responsible for archiving.

Ideal candidates will want to play a full part in the life of the School - a Christian foundation that has always by statute "admitted pupils of all nations and countries".

Further details of these appointments may be obtained from the HEADMASTER.

DEPUTY COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICER

Salary - £19,653 - £21,393

Applications are invited for the post of Deputy County Education Officer, which becomes vacant in July 1984, on the promotion of the present holder to County Education Officer.

Application forms returnable by 25 March 1984 and further information available from Chief Executive, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XL.

(Please Quote Post C00020).

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TO FOCUS

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceefax** All.
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Selina Scott and Mike Smith. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; today's television preview at 8.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; keep fit at 7.25; new films and pop records reviewed between 7.45 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.53.
- 9.00 **Gardeners' World**. Graham Rose and Roy Lancaster in the gardens of Hildesheim, Gloucestershire (shown on Friday). (Ceefax titles page 170) 10.00 **Ceefax**.
10.30 **Play School**, presented by Ben Thomas (r). 10.55 **Ceefax**.
- 12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whinor and Frances Cowley. 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One. Ron Pickering begins a new series looking at major sporting issues and pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy talks about his career. 1.45 **The Plumps** (r).
- 2.00 **Living on the Land**. A profile of the two men whose job it is to ensure that a bird sanctuary in Dorset remains attractive to birds (r). 2.25 **In Search of... Boudicca**. The first of seven programmes about Britain before the Norman Conquest (r).
- 3.05 **Saved in the Nick of Time**. A documentary about buildings that have been saved from the hands of the developer by 'transplants' (r). 3.48 **Regional News** (not London).
- 3.50 **Magic Roundabout** (r). 3.55 **Play School**, presented by Elizabeth Watts. 4.20 **Cartoon: Laurel and Hardy**. 4.25 **Jackanory**. Robert Lindsay reads part one of *The Kitchen Warriors*. 4.40 **Finders Keepers**. Inter-school computerised general knowledge quiz. 5.05 **John Craven's Newsround**. 5.10 **Blue Peter** presents the Post Office's new issue of stamps depicting different breeds of cattle.
- 5.40 **Six Minutes** includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40.
- 6.40 **Roll Harris Cartoon Time**. Roll Harris presents cartoons featuring Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck.
- 7.10 **Blue Thunder**. Helicopter adventures over Los Angeles. Tonight, the intrepid Frank Chaney is on the trail of a man convicted of fraud who masterminds an ingenious escape from prison.
- 8.00 **Points of View**. Barry Took with readers' letters of praise or otherwise for BBC television programmes (page 170).
- 8.10 **Panorama: Bitter Sweet Pill**. Margaret Jay takes a fresh look at the 20 year controversy surrounding the use of contraceptive pills.
- 9.00 **News** with John Humphrys.
- 9.25 **Film: Hide in Plain Sight** (1980) starring James Caan. Drama about a man searching for his children after they and his former wife are whisked away by the Justice Department when the woman's new husband turns state's evidence against his mafia employers. Directed by British filmmaker, John Huston.
- 10.55 **Film: 84 with Barry Norman**, includes an interview with John Hurt.
- 11.25 **Weeks on Film**. The seventh film in the series devoted to development issues in India (r).
- 11.55 **Weather**.

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. News from Jane Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 8.35 and 7.35; money news at 8.40 and 8.45 exercises at 8.50 and 9.15; the day's odd anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day at 7.40; pop video at 7.55; star romance at 8.10; Jimmy Greaves' television highlights of the week at 8.35; the TV-am doctor at 9.05.

TV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools: Puppet Opera**. 9.47 **Learning to read** with Basil Brush. 9.53 **Wood** - from the sheep to the carpet factory. 10.11 **Basic Maths**: transformations. 10.31 **Sax** - the saxophone in the English language. 11.00 **The first filmed ascent of the North Face of the Eiger**. 11.22 **Skills** we need to survive. 10.41 **A visit to a bird sanctuary**.
- 12.00 **Alpha Zoo**. Nerys Hughes and Ralph McTell with Vernon the Vulture. 12.10 **Let's Pretend to the Adventures of a Jelly**. 12.30 **Baby and Co.** Miriam Stopford with the second and last of her series on young baby care.
- 1.00 **News with Leonard Parkin**. 1.20 **Thames news** from Robin Houston. 1.30 **My Life**. Colin Morris talks to Shane Ellis, now aged 20, who spent 14 years in local authority care. He is now a national officer for the National Association of Young People in Care.
- 2.00 **Film: Only a Soldier** (1958) starring Bernard Bresslaw. Big screen version of the Army Game. Gormless conscripts are sent to a British protectorate to put down a revolution. Directed by Montgomery Tully. 2.30 **Miracles Take Longer**.
- 4.00 **Alpha Zoo**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Barfick**. Adventures of a karate expert bat. 4.20 **He-Man and Masters of the Universe**. 4.45 **Danger - Marmalade at Work** (Oracle). Dames page 170. 5.00 **Damages**. 5.15 **Emmerdale Farm**. The new bull at the farm is full of surprises.
- 5.45 **News**. 6.00 **Thames news**. 6.25 **Help! The work of the Royal Earlewood Hospital**. 6.35 **Crossroads**. Diana Hunter is offended by Carol Sande. 7.00 **Wish You Were Here...** Judith Chalmers samples the delights of Gambia. Chris Kelly gives a two-part tour of the Scottish Isles; and wheelchair bound Anna Davies takes a package tour for the disabled to Cyprus.
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. To Stan's horror Hilda discovers he has come into some money. (Oracle titles page 170).
- 8.00 **Duty Free**. Comedy series about two British couples on a package tour in Spain.
- 8.30 **What in Action: The Press Gang**. An examination of Tony Burt's battles with Fleet Street.
- 9.00 **Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer: Vickie's Love**. The successful detective hunts for the killer of a girl he looked upon as a sister.
- 10.00 **News**.
- 10.30 **Film: Witchfinder General** (1967) starring Vincent Price. Bloodthirsty drama about religious persecution in Britain during the time of Cromwell. Directed by Michael Reeves.
- 11.50 **After Hours**. Music and conversation presented by Trevor Hyatt and Mavis Nicholson.
- 12.35 **Night Thoughts** from Baroness Lane-Fox.



John Hurt. Film 84 (BBC1 10.55pm)

Separating Norfolk from Suffolk is the 66-mile-long River Waveney, meandering its way through particularly East Anglian scenery - fens and marshes. Horizon's **REELCTIONS ON A RIVER** (BBC 2 9.30pm) is a profile of the river and of the people who work with it or by it. Beautifully photographed, both from the air and from the ground, the programme captures the essence of the region and of the people who live there, at the same time illustrating the wide variety of flora and fauna that thrives in the area. Dick Gilling, who wrote and produced the programme, has skillfully woven in archive photographs, baldly contrasting yesterday's scenes with those of today. The area is constantly undergoing change - mostly

because of the requirement of the farmers, the majority of whom have chosen to drain the land in order to grow crops in preference to the traditional use of the fens - cattle grazing. But it is not only the farmers who have their say. A gamekeeper, seal-catchers, reed-cutters, marsh-men, conservationists and members of the Anglian Water Authority all play their part in the making of this fascinating portrait of a tranquil and picturesque part of England.

Today, at the ridiculously early hour of 5.00pm, Channel Four begins a new 13-part comedy series, **NIGHT BEAT NEWS**. The series, to be transmitted four times

a week, has been made by the Welsh fourth channel who had the series created by the American team of Bill Keenan and Peter Miller. The action is in the studios of an incompetent television station responsible for transmitting a programme along the lines of BBC's *Silly Songs*. But the station is staffed by relatives of the station-owner who thinks that it is better to employ them than to have them begging. As one would expect from a series with an American pedigree the action is fast and full of one-liners with the first episode, naturally, introducing the weird and wonderful characters who promise a lot of laughs over the next three weeks. Not least the two station announcers, David and Gareth, delightfully played by Dyfed Thomas and Robin Griffin.

CHOICE

Simon Jenkins in the first of five programmes, explores myths and realities of the modern diplomat: (1) 'The Cheesecake Press' by Ian Skirrow (r). 7.25 **The Monday Play** 'Temporary Shelter' by Rose Tremain. Roy Kinnear plays Larry, a 'time man', in both attitude and achievement. He and his wife, camping in France, meet a young couple and Larry overcomes his dislike of foreigners sufficiently to be friendly. Then a strange figure turns up on the scene - an actor who has lost faith in both himself and society. He is an even greater failure than Larry. With Fiona Walker and Anthony Newlands.

9.17 **Almond Port Evans** at the Common Cold Unit in Salisbury, finds out what it's like to be a volunteer in cold research. 9.45 **9.55 Weather**. 9.58 **9.58 Weather**.

10.15 **A Book at Bedtime: 'Irish Journal'** by Heinrich Böll, abridged in five parts. The reader is John Rowe.

10.30 **The World Tonight**. 11.15 **The Financial World Tonight**. 11.30 **News**. 11.55 **Weather**. 12.15 **Closed, Shipping Forecast**.

England: VHF as above except: 12.05 **2.05 Weather**. Travel. 10.45-12.00 **For Schools**. 10.45 **Hallo! We Greet** 11.00 **Musical Makers**. 11.20 **Let's Meet** 11.40 **Johnnie Ball's Music Games**. 11.50 **Postcard Corner**. 1.55 **2.00pm Listening Corner**. For Schools. 2.00 **Playtime**. 2.15 **Introducing Science**. 2.25 **Notodown**. 2.40 **Listening to Music**. 2.50 **Music Project**. 3.50-5.55 **PM (continued)**. 11.00 **Study Skills**. 12.00 **1.00pm School**. 1.10 **1.10pm School**. 1.20 **1.20pm School**. 1.30 **1.30pm School**. 1.40 **1.40pm School**. 1.50 **1.50pm School**. 2.00 **2.00pm School**. 2.10 **2.10pm School**. 2.20 **2.20pm School**. 2.30 **2.30pm School**. 2.40 **2.40pm School**. 2.50 **2.50pm School**. 3.00 **3.00pm School**. 3.10 **3.10pm School**. 3.20 **3.20pm School**. 3.30 **3.30pm School**. 3.40 **3.40pm School**. 3.50 **3.50pm School**. 4.00 **4.00pm School**. 4.10 **4.10pm School**. 4.20 **4.20pm School**. 4.30 **4.30pm School**. 4.40 **4.40pm School**. 4.50 **4.50pm School**. 5.00 **5.00pm School**. 5.10 **5.10pm School**. 5.20 **5.20pm School**. 5.30 **5.30pm School**. 5.40 **5.40pm School**. 5.50 **5.50pm School**. 6.00 **6.00pm School**. 6.10 **6.10pm School**. 6.20 **6.20pm School**. 6.30 **6.30pm 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